LIVINGSTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: IT'S BEGINNING AND SOME LATER YEARS WITH UPDATES

by

Dale C. Maley

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Livingston County Historical Society: It's Beginning and Some Later Years with Updates
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Foreword

In 1985, J. Paul Yost published a book about the history of the Livingston County Historical Society. The book includes some fascinating history about the Native Americans who inhabited Livingston County. It also includes a great deal of early Livingston County history.

Very few copies of this book were printed. One copy is kept at the Pontiac Library in their Walnut History case.

With the permission of the Livingston County Historical Society, the author is reprinting this book. Some informational updates are also included. It is hoped reprinting the book with updates will make the historical information more available to new generations of citizens interested in history.

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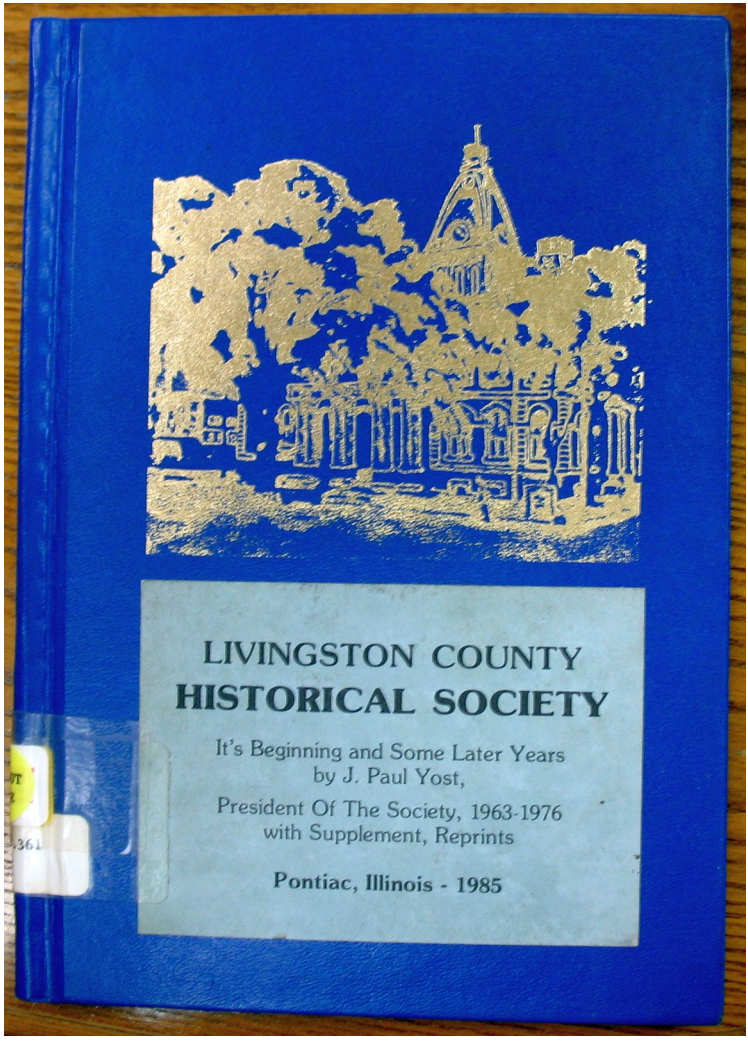
CHAPTER 1

1985 Book

The 1985 book is reprinted below:

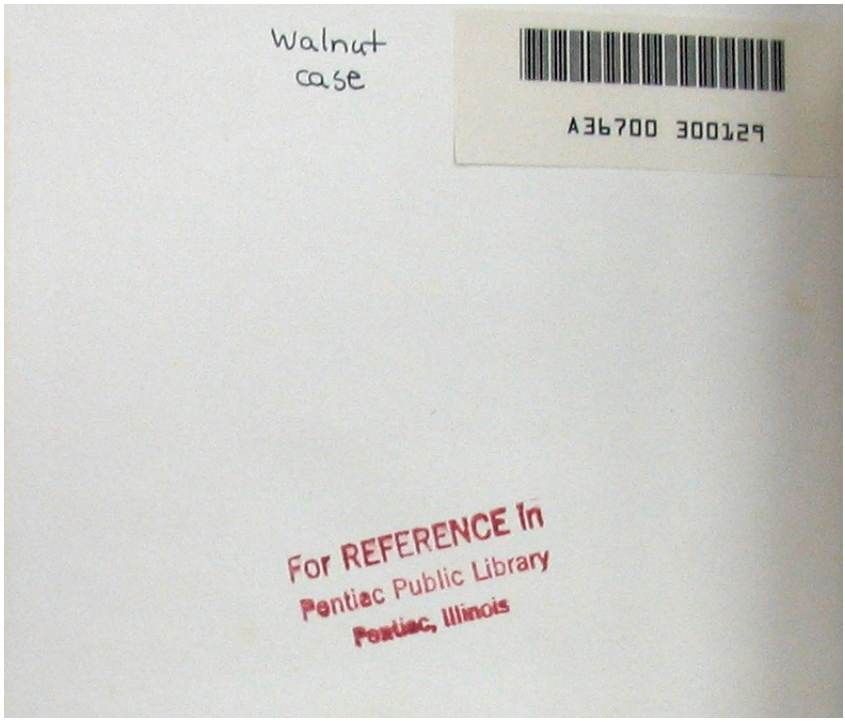


For the Pontiac Public Library

In memory of Mrs. Lucile Goodrich,
-a faithful member of the Livingston
County Historical Society, and a
long-time friend,

J. Paul Yost.

July 26-1985-



From the first Secretary's Book, given to me by Sheriff Robert Jones, and found in an old desk in the Courthouse, I quote: "On Sept. 25, 1924, the Kiwanis Club of Pontiac, Illinois observed "Indian Day". The early Indian History of Livingston County was read by Henry J. Meis. Mr. Meis made a plea for the preservation of our County History.

A motion followed, and Chairman J. C. Greenebaum appointed Henry J. Meis, Grant C. Armstrong, W. W. McCulloch, D. S. Myers and J. B. Grotevant. This committee secured a charter In the name of The Livingston County Historical Society. Later on Dr. J. H. Ryan was added to this Committee. H. J. Meis, Chairman."'

"A certificate of Incorporation has been filed in the office of the Sec. of State on the 11th day of Dec, 1924, for the organization of the Livingston County Historical Society. Now, therefore, 1, Louis L.

Emmerson, Sec. of State, by virtue of powers and duties vested in me by law, do hereby certify that the said Livingston County Historical Society is a legally organized Corporation under the laws of this state.

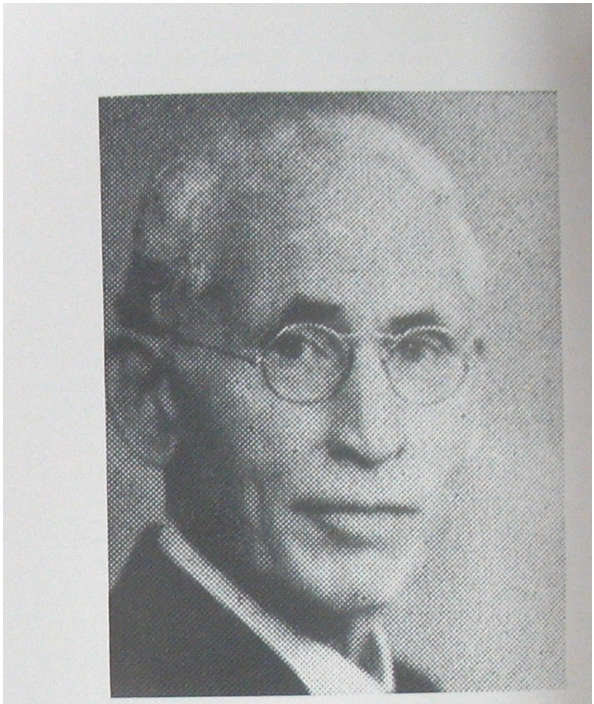
In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Illinois, done at the City of Springfield this 11th day of Dec. 1924, and of the Independence of the United States, the one hundred and 49th.

Louis L. Emmerson, Sec. of State."

On March 6, 1925 a meeting was called by the Chairman for action on a permanent organization. The following officers were selected: Dr. J. H. Ryan for President; W. W. McCulloch, Vice President; H. J. Meis, Secretary; D. S. Myers (Jr.) Treas.

It was moved by Mr. Meis, that the Chair appoint a committee of four to draft Bylaws and Constitution. The following were selected: J. C. Greenebaum, H. J. Meis, D. S. Myers, and J. B. Grotevant. Discussion followed, regarding Directors. It was decided to have one in each Township. On motion of H. J. Meis, seconded by Myers, G. C. Armstrong was elected Director for Pontiac Township. The selecting of other Township Directors was left for a later date. Discussion followed — where to hold meetings to further our Historical Society. The following towns were suggested: Fairbury, Chatsworth, Flanagan, and Long Point.

Meeting closed on Motion of adjournment, H. J. Meis, Sec."



The Rev. Dr. John H. Ryan
1st Pres. of the Livingston
County Historical Society

On May 4, 1925, the Certificate of Incorporation was filed in the Livingston County Courthouse, in Pontiac, Ill.

The next meeting of the Society was held on May 6, 1925. It was a Special Meeting, called by the president, for adoption of By-Laws and Constitution, and other organization work. A full quorum was not present. Discussion took place regarding a room for the Historical Society in the Courthouse."

The next recording in the Secretary's Book is, as follows:

"Pontiac, III. Aug. 23, 1930.

"The Darnall Centennial was held at the Spence home, six miles south of Fairbury on Aug. 23, 1930. The bronze Tablet was presented by the Secretary, H. J. Mies, of the County Historical Society. It was presented by the Darnall descendents, and the Sec. presented it first to the community, in which Mr. Darnall settled, then to the County, and lastly to the State. A copy of the proceedings are placed on file in this journal, and a copy sent to the State Historical Society. Dr. J. H. Ryan, President of the County Historical Society gave the address of the day. M. D. Spence, a direct descendent unveiled the tablet, while the Band played "America".

A Program of the day's exercises is also placed on file.

At 7:30 o'clock about 25 Indians— (Winnebagos) from Wisconsin gave their performances in the timber. A setting, as it was 100 years ago.

It was a very impressive ceremony, and was well attended.

H. J. Mies,
Sec. Livingston Co. Historical Society

After the above Secretary's Report, by Mr. Mies, there are no further Minutes of later Historical Society meetings recorded in this first Secretary's Book. However, in the Book were several letters written to various citizens in regard to serving as Directors of the Society; also, Bills for articles purchased by the Society. I have pasted these in this original Secretary's Book, making it, more or less, a Scrap Book. I quote some of the letters:

"Ill. State Reformatory, John R. Cranor, General Supt. Pontiac, III.
Mar. 16, 1931.

To Mr. J. S. Porterfield
Chatsworth, Ill.
Dear Mr. Porterfield:

If you have been in the Court House in Pontiac recently, you have seen in the Hall, the beginning of our Collection, as the Livingston County Historical Society. We are now planning to add to the Directors a few more names, so as to spread the representations on the County. We would like interested parties, and men, who would help us add to the collection. I am writing you to suggest two or three names from Chatsworth, with a view of having one selected; and would be pleased to have your judgment in the matter. Will appreciate an early reply."

Sincerely yours,

John H. Ryan, Chaplain, Ill. State Reformatory."
Chatsworth, IL.
Mar. 17th 1931

Dr. John H. Ryan, Pontiac, Ill.
Dear Mr. Ryan:

I am pleased to recommend one or more of the following, as Director: Will C. Quinn, Frank Bennett, Sebastian Glabe, Miss Helena Aaron.

Sincerely,
J. C. Porterfield.

Ill. State Reformatory
John R. Cranor, General Supt.
March 16, 1931

Mr. Herbert Powell,
Fairbury, Ill.

My dear Herbert:
If you have been—(same as above) We are planning a reorganization, or rather adding Directors to extend the representation more generally on the county. Now, who would make an interested representative from Fairbury? Mr. Dawson, of the Bank, has been suggested, and his wife was as favorably mentioned, but you have been there a long time, and we would trust your judgment in the selection. Whoever suits Fairbury will be satisfactory to us.

Very sincerely,

John H. Ryan.
Chaplain,
Ill. State Reformatory.

The following was written on the same page of Dr. Ryan's letter: and returned:

"Miss Olive V. McKee
Mrs. Lizzie Bane
N. E. Fulton

In the order named, Miss McKee is in the South, and may not get home for two, or three weeks.

Yours,
H. Powell".
Fairbury, Ill.
Mar. 21, 1931.

H. J. Mies, Pontiac, Ill.
Dear Mr. Mies:

I have your letter of Mar. 18th. I appreciate the courtesy extended to me, and shall be glad to serve as one of the Directors of the Livingston County Historical Society. I enclose a slip with my name, as I usually sign it.

Very sincerely,
Anna L. Dawson.
(Mrs. J. C.)

Mr. H. J. Mies,
Pontiac, Ill.

Mar. 30, 1931

Dear Friend: Your letter of the 19th came duly to hand. I have neglected answering before because I've not had opportunity to have a letter typewritten so you could have my name as you requested. It dawned on me last evening after I retired that I had letter heads with my name printed, so here goes.

I have a good many things to attend to, of the nature of public and community affairs, but as I'm relinquishing some of these soon, and I'm interested in this work. I shall be glad to help you in this, and act on the board, if you have not the place filled.

Sincerely,
G. F. Bennett.

I also include the following statement in the Secretary's book: Livingston County Historical Society.

Pontiac, Ill. May 4, 1931.

Dr. — to H. J. Mies	
1 Record book	$ .75
J. B. Spray (printing), receipt books and membership blanks	$ 5.00
1. Trundle bed	$ 5.00
2. Show cases at $35.00 each	$ 70.00
J. B. Burke for hd'w locks and eyes on cases	$ 3.80
	$ 84.55
Dr. to Miss Thornton 2 show cases. Total	$ 47.50
Dr. to G. C. Armstrong, charter	$ 10.00
	$142.05
Appropriation from Supervisors	$150.00
May 4, by Balance	$ 7.95
	$150.00

On Sat., Sept. 26, 1936, "A new Pontiac Monument Honor's City's Namesake", according to the Daily Leader of that date. At that dedication Dr. John Ryan, President of the Livingston County Historical Society, "Reviews Historical Events of early Pontiac". A

picture of the "Historical Cairn", sponsored by The Livingston County Historical Society, located on the South East corner of the Court House lawn, together with Dr. Thomas Lockie, Designer, Dr. John H. Ryan, President, and Joe S. Reed, Sec. of the Society."

The monument was unveiled on a rainy day by Janet Armstrong (Jackson), a Seventh Grader, and daughter of Grant Armstrong, Historical Society Sec. and Treas., Director for Pontiac Township, and John Long, Grandson of Dr. Ryan, a student at Pontiac High School. Talking to Janet, she recalled that it was a rainy day, and that she and John Long wore raincoats, but his grandfather, Rev. Ryan didn't wear any, nor did she remember the exact date.

Again quoting the Leader: "The building of this marker began by an appeal to Springfield, and through contact with F. Lynden Smith, Robert Kingery, head of the Dept of Public Works and Buildings, and Henry Horner, Governor. The Authority being given to "carry on", other agencies were enlisted. The collection of boulders, the exacting task of splitting them, the casting of the bronze plates, by Mr. Stevenson (at the Pontiac Reformatory), the pioneer drama, as designed by Dr. Thomas Lockie, and the master construction by Davies & Son, are a few examples of the many helping hands,"

The bronze plaque states:

PONTIAC. Quote:

Pontiac, organizer of the conspiracy which bears his name, was born on the Maumee River in what is now Ohio, in 1720. As Chief he led the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians at Braddock's defeat July 9, 1755. When France surrendered Canada to the English, Pontiac made peace with the new rulers, but later enraged by his treatment from the British, he organized the Northwest Tribes into a united and simultaneous attack on the British posts, choosing for himself to take Detroit in May 1765. All the Western posts were taken except Detroit and Fort Pitt. The conspiracy failing with these defeats,

Pontiac came west to organize the Illinois and Mississippi tribes into another uprising, but failed. Four Years later he was killed by an Indian near Cahokia. In strength of mind and breadth of vision, Pontiac ranks among the great leaders of His race.

The City of Pontiac is named for this intrepid warrior.

In 1837, Jesse W. Fell, a distinguished citizen of Illinois, who was associated with many activities in the early history of this city, was requested by Henry Weed, the first settler and proprietor of what is now the county seat to prepare a petition for a post office. Desiring to perpetuate some of the favorite names of the fast vanishing race, he inserted the name of Pontiac, hence the name of the city. Mr. Fell also named the county choosing the name of Edward Livingston a distinguished attorney and statesman, and Secretary of State under President Andrew Jackson.

This Plaque was dedicated on the Court House lawn in Pontiac Sat., Sept. 26, 1936, by the State of Illinois, Henry Horner, Governor, and Livings-ton County Historical Society. John H. Ryan, President.

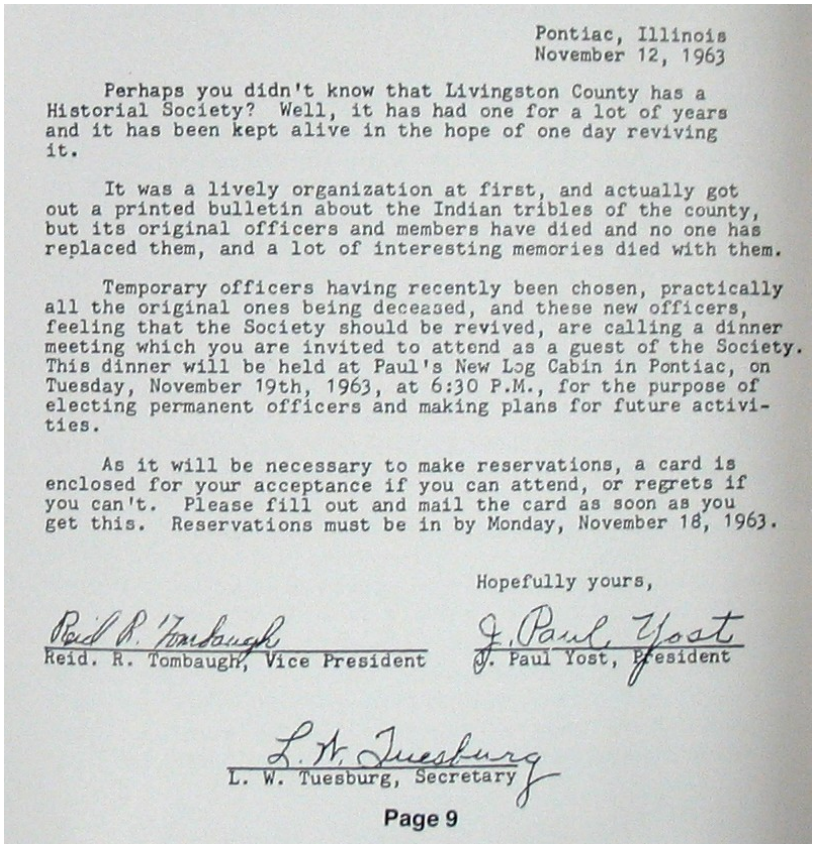
Bronzes by L. C. Stephenson.

In 1937 Livingston County celebrated it's Centennial. In the "News Review" and Leader Special Centennial Edition, there Is a long article on "The History of Pontiac" by Dr. John H. Ryan, "President of the Livingston County Historical Society."

After this Centennial Celebration, the Historical Society became inactive for many years, until in 1963 Mr. Tuesburg, the only surviving officer (Secretary) decided the Society should be revived.

Early in November, 1963, after my return from the summer in West Virginia, Mr. Tuesburg called me to his office, and said he was reviving the Livingston County Historical Society, and asked would

I be willing to serve as President with Reid Tombaugh as Vice president, and Tuesburg, Sec, I said I would. He then asked me to return to his office on the 12th to sign the following letter, which Reid also signed later. This letter was sent to 26 persons throughout the county, as follows:



Pontiac, Illinois
November 12, 1963

Perhaps you didn't know that Livingston County has a Historial Society? Well, it has had one for a lot of years and it has been kept alive in the hope of one day reviving it.

It was a lively organization at first, and actually got out a printed bulletin about the Indian tribles of the county, but its original officers and members have died and no one has replaced them, and a lot of interesting memories died with them.

Temporary officers having recently been chosen, practically all the original ones being deceased, and these new officers, feeling that the Society should be revived, are calling a dinner meeting which you are invited to attend as a guest of the Society. This dinner will be held at Paul's New Log Cabin in Pontiac, on Tuesday, November 19th, 1963, at 6:30 P.M., for the purpose of electing permanent officers and making plans for future activities.

As it will be necessary to make reservations, a card is enclosed for your acceptance if you can attend, or regrets if you can't. Please fill out and mail the card as soon as you get this. Reservations must be in by Monday, November 18, 1963.

Hopefully yours,

Reid R. Tombaugh
Reid. R. Tombaugh, Vice President

J. Paul Yost
J. Paul Yost, President

L. W. Tuesburg
L. W. Tuesburg, Secretary

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Mr. Lyle Husted, Cornell, Ill.; Mr. Clark Husted*, Cornell, Ill., Mr. Lyle Girard*, Manville, Ill.; Mr. Aman Sheeler, Graymont, Ill.;St., Mr. Glenn Antrim*, Graymont, Ill.; Mr. Floyd Byrne*, 916 E. Water

St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mr. Norman Holzhauer* , R.F.D. 3, Pontiac, Ill.; Mr. Percy Donnell, 612 W. South St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mr. Reid R. Tombaugh* , 555 W. Grove St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mrs. Clarence Miller, 123 E. Walnut St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mrs. C. Sterry Long*, 304 E. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mrs. John G. Dargan, 103 W. South St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mr. J. Paul Yost* , 298 W. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.; Miss Hellene Yost*, 298 W. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.; Miss Catharine Yost*, 298 W. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mr. Jerome Pearre, N. Court St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mr. Lewis McGregor, Humiston Haven, Pontiac, Ill.; Mr. L. W. Tuesburg*, 102 E. Henry St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mr. Henry W. Phillips, Fairbury, Ill.; Mrs. Joshua Dawson, Fairbury, Ill.; Mr. 0. D. Brissenden, 405 W. Lincoln St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mrs. H. 0. Allison* , 734 W. Henry St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mrs. Karl V. Fischler*, 103 W. Reynolds St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mrs. Esther Balbach*, 634 W. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mrs. C. M. Dargan, E. Washington St., Pontiac, Ill.; Mrs. Lucille Goodrich* , Fairbury, Ill.

*Those attending the Dinner (Fifteen)

The first meeting of the revived Historical Society was on Tues. Nov. 19, 1963, at the New Log Cabin Restaurant, in Pontiac. I now quote from my sister, Catharine's "Day Book" (Diary): "At 6:30 P.M. we were guests of The Livingston County Historical Society for dinner at the New Log Cabin Restaurant, Paul acted as host and as temporary President for the reorganization meeting. The officers elected were: J. Paul Yost, President; Reid Tombaugh, Vice President; L. W. Tuesburg, Secretary.

It was decided to have the meetings every two months, and to meet in the Basement Assembly Room at the Pontiac Public Library. Sec. Tuesburg read the Certificate of Incorporation, which is as follows:

"Purpose of such organization to wit:

1. Name of such corporation is Livingston County Historical Society.

2. Object for which it is formed is to discover, collect and preserve whatever relates to the natural, industrial, civil, military, political, social, educational or religious history of Livingston County and to maintain a museum and library; to cultivate the historic sense and diffuse knowledge upon those subjects, by meetings and publications."

3. Management of the aforesaid Historical Society shall be vested in a Board of six Directors.

4. The following persons are hereby selected as the Directors to control and manage said corporation for the first year of its corporate existence, viz: John H. Ryan, H. J. Meis, W. W. McCulloch, G. C. Armstrong, J. E. Grotevant, Diller S. Myers.

5. The location is in the city of Pontiac, in the County of Livingston, in the State of Illinois, and the Post office address of its business office is at No. 412 Sterry Block, 122 W. Washington St., in the said city of Pontiac, Ill.

Signed: John H. Ryan, G.C. Armstrong, H. J. Meis, Diller S. Myers, J. B. Grotevant, W. W. McCulloch.

Filed May 4th, 1925, at 4:20 P.M. (Livingston County Court House, Pontiac, III.)

All those present at this first meeting, on Nov. 19, 1963, showed considerable interest in the reviving of the Historical Society, and it was decided to elect the Directors at a later meeting when more members are obtained.

It was on the following Friday, Nov. 22, 1963, that President John Kennedy was shot and killed.

"The second meeting of the reorganized Historical Society of Livingston County (I quote from my sister Catharine's "Day Book, 1964") was held on Thursday, Jan. 16, 1964, at the Public Library Assembly Room in the basement. Paul presided as President, and Mr. Tuesburg, as Sec. The weather was still so bad with snow drifts, we walked to the meeting. Eighteen were present. Dues were set at $2.00 per year.

Mr. Wax, from the Illinois State Historical Library came and talked about possible projects of a Historical Society. (We did not have to pay for his talk). The following eighteen were present: Glenn Antrim, John Lovelock, Lula Lovelock, J. Paul Yost, Catharine Yost, Hellene Yost, Esther Balbach, Harriet Fischler, Sue Shaughnessy, Nancy Dargan, Helen Long, Mr. Hunsicker, Virginia Miller, Oscar Brissenden, L. W. Tuesburg, Betty Harris, Reid Tombaugh, Roger Wessels.

The President appointed the following Committees:

Library: Mrs. Esther Balbach, Mrs. Virginia Miller, Mrs. C. Sterry

Museum: Floyd Byrne, Edgar M. Zook, Mrs. Bonita Allison.

Publications: Miss Betty Harris, Chatsworth, Mrs. Verdun. Odell. Mrs. Louise Stoutemyer,

Historical Sites: Norman Holzhauer, Glenn Antrim, Miss Catharine Yost, Mrs. Lula Lovelock, Odell. Program: Mrs. Lucille Goodrich, Chairman, C. D. Brissenden, Ben Nussbaum, Fairbury.

Membership: Clark Husted, chairman, Mrs. Buena Donnell, Roger Wessels. Fairbury.

Nominations: Mrs. Goodrich, Mrs. C. M. Dargan, Henry Phillips, Fairbury.

At the third meeting, on Mar. 30, 1964, everyone brought antique objects to talk about. Catharine took watercolor paintings of the old covered bridge at Mill and Water street and the Williams Mill, and the first two Court Houses; Hellene took some old books: 1817, 1847, 1876, etc. 16 members present-2 Odell, 2 Chatsworth.

April 30, 1964, We invited Mr. Weishaupt, who was in charge of the Illinois State Historymobile, to our house for supper. The Historymobile was stationed in front of the Public Library, for the public to see the exhibits. They were all interesting.

May 6, 1964
Mr. William Keller, Field Representative,
Illinois State Historical Library,
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Mr. Keller:

The "Robert R. McCormick Historymobile" visit to Pontiac was a huge success, and I want to thank you for sending it. We had fine cooperation from all the local schools, and also the public. I think you are particularly fortunate in having Mr. Weishaupt explain all the exhibits. His personality is well suited to such a job, and he does it extremely well. Several of the teachers commented on his ability to "communicate" with all the children, and to hold their attention and interest. In this restless age. I think that is quite an accomplishment.

By this time, I suppose the Illinois exhibit at the World's Fair is complete. I hope it will be well received. I know that it represents a great deal of work on the part of the Historical Library.

Please keep me informed of any future exhibits that you may send out "on the road", for I am sure we will be interested.

With kind regards to yourself and to Mr. Wax,

from.
Yours truly, J. Paul Yost

I wasn't present for the May 26th meeting. We (Yosts) had left for our annual trip to West Virginia on May 21st and didn't return until Oct. 2nd. Quoting from the Secretary's minutes:" "Vice President. Reid Tombaugh, called the meeting to order, in the absence of the president. J. Paul Yost. Mr. Tuesburg. the Sec., introduced Mrs. Lucile Goodrich, who spoke most interestingly on "The History of Livingston County Schools."

From the Secretary's Minutes: "The Sept. 22, 1964 meeting was called to order by the Vice President. Reid Tombaugh, in the absence of the President, J. Paul Yost. who was still in West Virginia. for the summer, 30 members attended. The speaker was Mrs. Erma Stuckey. Piper City. She spoke on. "My Darnall. Spence. and Steers Families", illustrated by charts, pictures, and other exhibits. Mrs. Stuckey is a direct descendent of Valentine Martin Darnall, the first settler in Livingston County, and of Williamson Spence. She has made a study of the genealogy of these three families. and has collected an immense amount of information concerning them, and gave a very interesting and much appreciated talk". L. W. Tuesburg, Sec."."

On Nov. 27, 1964, Mr. Tuesburg sent the following letter:

Mr. Glenn M. Antrim,
Route I. Pontiac, Ill.

Dear Mr. Antrim:

It is my understanding that you were appointed chairman of the nominating committee of the Livingston County Historical Society, the other members being Norman Holzhauer and Lucile Goodrich. I

trust you will have a meeting of this committee at the earliest convenient date. For your information, the present officers are: President, J. Paul Yost, Vice President, Reid R. Tombaugh, Secretary-Treasurer, L. w. Tuesburg, and Director. Henry W. Phillips of Fairbury. There are six directors authorized by the Articles of Incorporation, so you will note that there are two vacancies to fill. I believe these two should be selected from outside Pontiac, since it is desirable to keep up the interest of other communities.

With best regards, I am

Very Truly yours.
(Signed by) L. W. Tuesburg Secretary-Treasurer.

(CC: J Paul Yost).

Jan. 8, 1965.

Mr. William Keller, Field Representative.
Illinois State Historical Library,
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Mr. Keller:
The Livingston County Historical Society is starting on its second year, and I would like to see it "get off the ground". Our last meeting in Nov. was an interesting talk on the local Indian Lore, by Reid Tombaugh, who has given the subject considerable study. The September meeting, (which 1 missed—being out of town) was a talk by our County Supt. of Schools—Lucile Goodrich, on the County Schools History.

So far our group is rather small, but interested in the Society. However. it is a difficult problem to get them started on any real "projects". In view of this, I am wondering whether you could send

us a speaker for our Jan. meeting (you set the date), on any historical subject you may select? And what would be the cost?

We will also have election of officers at that meeting, but that shouldn't take up very much time.

Until we are deeply imbued with the idea of Historical Research, I'm afraid we won't accomplish much!

Hoping you may be able to help us,

I remain,

Yours truly,

J. Paul Yost
Pres. Livingston County Historical Society.

From Catharine's "Day Book": "We went to the Historical Society meeting at the library. Paul was reelected President. About twenty members were present. For the program Paul had invited a man from Springfield, Mr. William Keller, Field Representative of the State Historical Library. He talked on "Little Known Areas of Illinois History." He was very good." (Jan. 21, 1965). Mrs. Lucile Goodrich, Nominating Committee Chairman, gave a report of the Nominations: J. Paul Yost, President; Reid Tombaugh, Vice President; L. W. Tuesburg, Sec.-Treas.; directors: Lyle Girard, Manville; Mrs. Louise Stoutemyer, Chatsworth; Roger W. Wessels, Fairbury, and the Nominees were elected. Afterwards the speaker and Mr. Tuesburg stopped at our house for coffee".

Thursday, March 25 meeting: There was a heavy snow all day, so the attendance was small. After a short business meeting, names of the Committees were announced:

Library: Mrs. Esther Balbach, Chairman; Mrs. Virginia Miller; Mrs. C. Steffy Long.

Museum: Floyd Byrne, Chairman; Edgar M. Zook, Fairbury; Mrs. Bonita Bradford Allison.

Publications: Miss Betty Harris, Chairman; Mrs. Louise Stoutemyer, Chatsworth; Mrs. J. J. Verdun, Odell.

Historical Sites: Norman Holzhauer, Chairman; Glenn Antrim; Miss Catharine Yost; Mrs. Lula Lovelock, Odell.

Program: Mrs. Lucille Goodrich, Chairman; O. D. Brissenden; Ben Nussbaum, Fairbury.

Membership: Clark Husted. Cornell, Chairman; Mrs. Buena Donnell; Roger Wessels, Fairbury.

Nominations: Aman Scheeler, Graymont, Chairman; Mrs. C. M. Dargan; Henry Phillips, Fairbury.

Publicity: Norman Holzhauer, Chairman; Miss Betty Harris.

Afterwards Norman Holzhauer gave an interesting talk on 'Tourism".

The next meeting was on May 18, 1965. The speakers were Edgar Zook and Ben Nussbaum from Fairbury, who talked on Livingston County Indians, particularly Kickapoos. Mr. Nussbaum talked and showed a considerable number of Indian artifacts, relics, and books relating to Indians, of which he has been a collector for many years. 60 people attended the meeting.

At the Sept. 27th meeting, Vice President, Reid Tombaugh was in charge, because I was still in West Virginia. 26 attended the

meeting. The Program Chairman, Lucille Goodrich, introduced the speaker, Cathy Lannon. She gave a talk about Albert D. J. Cashier, a woman who enlisted under that name in the Union Army in the 95th Illinois Regiment, saw active service at Vicksburg in 1863. He lived in Saunemin for fifty years without his true sex being revealed. Later he was sent to the Soldiers and Sailors Home at Quincy, where he admitted "he" was Jennie from Ireland. She died on Oct. 10, 1915, and was given a Military Funeral in Saunemin, and was buried in the Uniform of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Nov. 30, 1965. The program was by Roger Weeks on "Egyptian Scarabs and other Relics — including Old Coins". Due to the bad weather, the attendance wasn't very large.

1966. On Tues. Jan. 25, 1966 officers were reelected for '66. Afterwards Carl Hunsicker spoke on "Early History of Illinois." Tues. Mar. 22, '66 Edward M. Bailey & Son were paid $80.00 for the new Steel Cabinet, for Historical Society papers, etc. The contents to be used only for reference. Glenn Antrim gave an address—History of his own family—Antrim, also the Car oils. He also displayed old pictures of schools, houses, and the first Record Book of Rooks Creek Township, and talked about early Rooks Creek History.

May 23, '66. There was a big storm tonight. (The Yosts didn't attend the meeting—we left for West Virginia on the 24th.) Reid Tombaugh, Vice President, conducted the meeting. The speaker was Mrs. Mae Mason, who talked about the "Early Settlers of Amity Township, Village of Cornell." She showed pictures of early log cabins, schools, etc. of the area.

At the meeting on Wed. Nov. 30, '66, Mrs. Stoutemyer, of Chatsworth, gave a "History of the Chatsworth Area, and the "Chatsworth Wreck" It was very interesting. Afterwards I appointed a Nominating Committee: Betty Harris, Chairman, Mrs. Sue

Shaughnessy, Norman Holzhauer; also a Committee to draw up Resolutions of Respect for Mr. Tuesburg, who died on June 16, 1966. The Committee was: Mrs. Goodrich, and Glenn Antrim. For the meeting, Mrs. Esther Balbach (Librarian) was the Sec. pro tern. The weather didn't cooperate: there was a heavy snowstorm, and the temp-5 above zero!

RESOLUTION

February 2, 1967

Of the respect to the memory of the late Judge Wilbur Tuesburg who departed this life June 16, 1966.

Whereas the Livingston County Historical Society, the State of Illinois, and the County of Livingston, have sustained a great loss in the passing of Judge Wilbur Tuesburg. He was a charter member of the Livingston County Historical Society. He at all times was a most kind and courteous public servant, which endeared him, with all he came in contact.

Now, therefore, be it further resolved by the Livingston County Historical Society on this day February 2nd, 1967 that we express our appreciation for the services rendered and be it further resolved, that this, his memorial, be made part of this Livingston County Historical Society minutes, and a copy of this resolution be sent, to the family of the late Honorable Judge Wilbur Tuesburg.

Glenn Antrim

At the meeting on Thurs. Mar. 30, 1967, the minutes of the Nov. 30, 1966 meeting were read. Eleven members were present. The renewal of the Society's Charter with the Sec. of State was approved and the Bill paid. Officers were reelected, with Harold Brown as Sec. to succeed Mr. Tuesburg, deceased. Directors elected: Glenn Antrim, Graymont; Roger Wessels, Fairbury; Charles McWilliams,

Dwight; Mrs. Louise Stoutemyer, Chatsworth; Mrs. Sue Shaughnessy, Pontiac; Clark Husted, Cornell.

A Sesqui-Cent. Planning Comm. appointed to consider plans for the Ill. State Sesquicentennial: Norman Holzhauer, Chairman; Catharine Yost, Louise Stoutemyer, Virginia Miller, and Roger Wessels. Also discussed was the possible establishment of a Museum. Betty Harris, Sec. pro tem.

At the May 11, '67 meeting. 25 members were present. The speaker was Dean Gordon, Promotional Manager of the Monticello Heritage Center, explaining the growth of the Center into a Museum. At the end of the talk, Mr. Ralph Innes, President of the Heritage Center was introduced.

Oct. 12, '67 meeting. Vice Pres. Reid Tombaugh presided. (I wasn't home yet from West Virginia). The speaker was Mrs. S. A. Miller, of Champaign, who talked on the possibility of various Historical Societies cooperating in observance of the State Sesquicentennial, Dec. 4, and throughout 1968. Twenty three attended the meeting.

Dec. 14, 1967 meeting. 21 were present. Catharine (quoting the Sec.'s Minutes) "gave a program of great interest, on the "Early History of Livingston County. and particularly of the City of Pontiac, from beginning, to about 1890."

Feb. 20, 1968. Quoting again from Sec. Harold Brown's Minutes: "The President appointed a Committee, of Virginia Smith Miller, Chairman, and Glenn Antrim to arrange for the cleaning of the Society's Exhibits at the Court House. Oscar Brissenden spoke on "A Lincolnian Collector's Viewpoint", and he displayed many pictures, etc. from his collection". At the conclusion of the program, the President read a letter from R. D. Thompson. of the law firm of "Adsit, Thompson, and Strock and Strong," telling of a cash bequest of $3,000.00 to the Historical Society, from the Estate of Dr. Bertram A. Richardson, of Emington. 27 members were present.

May 16, 1968. In the absence of the President, Reid Tombaugh, Vice Pres. presided. (I was in Chicago, with Catharine, at the Presbyterian Hospital). The speaker was Mr. Peter Scully, Dwight, who gave a very interesting talk on the "History of the Scully Family," from the time his grandfather, William Scully, came to this country from Ireland." 44 members attended this meeting.

At the Dec. 4, 1968 meeting Mr. Simundson, of Station WPOK, was the speaker. He presented two interesting Tapes, dealing with Early Livingston County History.

A nominating Committee, consisting of Glenn Antrim, Chairman, and Sue Shaughnessy was appointed, to report at the next meeting.

March 10, 1969 Meeting, on Monday. Twenty were present, and the Nominating Committee reported as follows: President, J. Paul Yost; Vice President. Reid Tombaugh; Sec.-Treas., Harold Brown.

Directors: Glenn Antrim, Graymont; Roger Wessels, Fairbury: Mrs. Louise Stoutemyer, Chatsworth; Robert Shields, Pontiac: Sue Shaughnessy, Pontiac; Clark Husted, Cornell.

The Nominations were accepted, and the slate of Officers were unanimously elected.

Hellene Yost then gave a very interesting review of a book by Fairburian, Mrs. Alma Lewis James. The Title: "Historic Fairbury".

At this time we three Yosts were getting our Passports for another trip to Europe. and making the final arrangements at Thomas Cook & Son, Office in Chicago. On Mar. 28, coming home from Chicago, as Catharine was getting off the train in Pontiac, she fell off the footstool, and broke her ankle. The next day Dr. Purnell put on a

plastic cast, and said she would be able to go on our trip. We left on April 9. 1969. Catharine hobbled around Europe with this "Walking Cast", but did very well, painting and sketching, as usual. After our return from Europe on May 23rd, we went to West Virginia, and came back to Pontiac on Oct. 2nd. On Nov. 3rd, we three went to Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago. till Nov. 12, for "Check Ups".

On Dec. 4, 1969 the Historical Society met, and I introduced the speaker, Bob Kipfer: "For some time I have wanted Bob Kipfer to become an active member of the Historical Society, because he is so active in the Annual Thresherman's Reunions, and interested in historical matters. This past Summer, he went to Europe—Switzerland, particularly, to pursue his hobby of Swiss Clocks, Music Boxes, and Family History, so. as a member of our Society, 1 asked him if he wouldn't tell us some of the high-lights of his investigations. He consented to do so, and I'm pleased to introduce him to you—BOB KIPFER —our "ALPINE YODELER and MUSIC BOX MAN." He showed slides of their trip, also. They were very interesting. "As usual, Hellene made cookies, and served them with coffee afterwards." 18 were present."—final quotation from Catharine's 1969 Day Book. On Mon. Jan. 5, 1970 Catharine entered St. James Hospital, and on Feb. 17th she passed away.

April 9, 1970. There was a Historical Society meeting on Apr. 9, '70 (quoting from my 1970 Daybook) 25 were present. Glenn Antrim and Lyle Husted talked on "The History of Cornell and Vicinity." We also showed some of Jersey Whitson Scrap books, given to me by his sister, Mrs. Ila Rathbun, for the Historical Society. Both Men were very interesting, and everyone seemed to have a nice time. Sec. Harold Brown was out of town. Hellene made brownies and cookies, and Mrs. Balbach made the coffee." I planned to go ahead with the "Early Livingston County Picture Show," about May 17-20.

April 21st there was a Committee Meeting at our house in regard to the proposed Historical Society Picture Exhibit, "Present were Mrs.

Mae Mason, the Kipfers, the Antrims, Sue Shaughnessy, Harriet Fischler, and Roger Wessels, Fairbury. Hellene served brownies, cookies and cake and I coffee, They talked about the picture show, and set days for May 17, 18 and 19 at the Library Basement Room. Wessels will take charge of Fairbury pictures, etc. Everybody had a good time, and stayed till 11:20 P.M."

"On Apr. 241 drove to Dwight and saw Edna Boyer. She will ask the Dwight Historical Society to bring an exhibit of Dwight pictures to our exhibit."

May 14, 15, and 16, Hellene and I worked at the Library setting up the Historical Society Picture Show. At 4 p.m. the 15th Mrs. Stoutemyer came and put up her Chatsworth pictures of the Chatsworth Railway Wreck, She also brought 10 Picture Books of the "Chatsworth wreck" to sell, "Sat, May 16, '70 spent day at Library getting the Picture Exhibit ready.

Sunday, the 17th was the opening day, and it continued through the 20th. Although the attendance was disappointing, all those who saw the Exhibit seemed to enjoy It very much, Mrs. Mason, the Antrims, Helen Long, Sue Shaughnessy and Harriet Fischler, and Bob, Kipfer were all very helpful, and I certainly appreciated all their help. (From my "1970 Daybook").

Helene and I left for our annual trip to West Virginia on June 17, 1970, and returned home Oct. 2, 1970. On Oct, 31 I had a severe heart attack, and remained in St. James Hospital until my dismissal on Dec, 16, 1970.

April 29, 1971 Historical Society meeting with Mr. Stephen Martin, the Assistant Historic Sites Curator from Springfield, who gave a Slide Program, showing the Reconstruction of the Old State Capitol in Springfield. Eighteen were present.

On Dec. 9, 1971, Betty Madden, Chief Curator of Art, Illinois State Museum, in Springfield, gave a program, with slides, showing "Development of Art in Ill," Helene and I entertained Miss Madden overnight at our home. She was quite Interested in some of our antique furniture, and took pictures of several of Catharine's paintings, also.

Thurs. May 4, 1972, the Historical Society met, and the program was by Mr. John Metzger, of the Illinois Department of Conservation, who talked about the "Illinois Historic Sites Survey". Afterwards he left Blanks re Historical Houses, Buildings, etc. to fill out and send to him. (I acted as Secretary). 23 members were present.

Dec. 7, 1972, the Historical Society Program, by Mary Ellen Sweitzer, the Assistant Librarian, was postponed on account of the weather. It was two to four degrees above zero, and the roads were too slippery for travel.

March 29, 1973. At this meeting, Mary Ellen Sweitzer talked on "Practical Genealogy". About 18-20 were there, and it was an interesting Program.

Apr. 14-May 19 a Historical Society Committee worked in the Court House Hallway cleaning the Historical Society Show Cases and contents. We also worked on May 26th, June 2nd and 9th, from 9 A.M. till nearly I P,M., and finished them. They look very good. The Committee included, Virginia Miller, Chairman, Velda Fretz, Joan (Brissenden) Bolz, Mary Thompson, Betty Harris, Yost, J. P., and Mr. Verona, Sec, of the Chamber of Commerce.

Oct. 23, Hellene and I returned from W. Va. On Nov 4, we went to St. James Hospital for "Check Ups"—until Nov. 10. At the Dec. 7th His. Soc. meeting, it was very cold, and although there were only twelve members present, it was very interesting. H. Clay Tate, formerly of the Pantagraph, talked about his book, "The Way It

Was, in McLean County, 1972-1822". As usual, Hellene made cookies, and Harriet Fischler helped with the coffee afterwards.

A meeting on April 18, '74 was called off, because the Speaker couldn't come.

At the meeting on May 23, 1974, the Nominating Committee gave it's report— all the Officers were re-nominated, and then re-elected. I introduced: Mr. Merle Glick, Vice President of the Peoria Historical

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At the meeting on May 23, 1974, the Nominating Committee gave it's report— all the Officers were re-nominated, and then re-elected. I introduced: Mr. Merle Glick, Vice President of the Peoria Historical Society who gave a talk on "Legends and Lore of Spoon River." 65 persons were present and the cost of the program was $75.00. Money was well spent. We took in new members at this meeting, and everyone said it was an excellent program.

At the Oct. 17, 1974 meeting I introduced the Speaker--Mr. Ron Nelson, who gave a very interesting talk, with slides, on "Restoration of Bishop Hill:. 32 were present. As usual, coffee and Hellene's cookies afterwards.

At Dec. 3, 1974 meeting, Harold Brown, Sec.'s Minutes; "President Yost introduced the speaker--Mrs. James Louden, who showed slides and a film, on "Illinois, Our Living History". Today was Illinois State Birthday--Dec. 3, 1818. 22 were present for the meeting.

Mar. 20, 1975, "William Lower, of the Pontiac High School faculty, gave an interesting program, entitled, "By the Old Mill Stream", showing a Film Strip, and also talk", --Harold Brown Sec. As usual, we had some of Hellene's cookies and coffee afterwards." - from my "Day Book, 1975."

At a meeting on May 21, 1975, (not recorded in the Sec.'s Book, but from my "1975 Day Book") "The Reverend Grummen, from Evenglow Lodge, gave a talk and showed slides on "Pontiac Wildflowers and Prairie Flowers". The pictures were excellent and his talk was very interesting. 46 people attended the meeting.

Thurs. Oct. 23, 1975 Meeting. From Sec. Brown's report. 36 were present. A Film Strip on the State Historical Society, and Illinois History showing Dramatic Episodes from the State's Past." The State Historical Society Essays Contest winners--sponsored by the Pontiac Junior Women's Club were announced, and some of the winning Essays were read by Mrs. DeMoss." Afterwards I appointed a Bi-Centennial Committee. Mrs. Louise Stoutemyer, Betty Harris, Reid Tombaugh, Harold Byrne, Elizabeth McKay, and J.M. Luther--to try to "come up" with an idea for a Centennial Program to be voted on at the next meeting.

On Apr. 27, '76, I sent out cards for a Historical Society meeting on Thurs. May 6th. At that time Mrs. Roy Sweitzer presented a Slide and Taped Narrative by Bloomington Architect, Wade Abels, on "A Look at McLean County Architecture." Although only 15 members attended the meeting, it was an interesting program.

I called a meeting of the Historical Society for Thurs. July 1st, 1976, and at this meeting I read my written resignation as President, not because of "health reasons" actually, as stated in Sec. Brown's report, but because I felt that I couldn't be responsible for all the work to be done to get the Jones House ready to become A Historical Society Museum—Fund raising, etc. Harold Brown wanted to resign at this time, also, but was persuaded to remain

Secretary. This meeting was to announce the purchase of the "Jones House"-314 E. Madison St., the second oldest Brick house in Pontiac, constructed in 1857. My letter follows:

July 1, 1976
To the Members of the Livingston County Historical Society, We are approaching a new era in the life of our Society, therefore, it is with regret that I have decided to resign from the office of President, due to health reasons. As we contemplate the establishment of a Historical Society Home and Museum, I feel that other younger and more active people should assume the responsibilities, and make the decisions for its successful development. I sincerely appreciate all the interest and support that I have received in the past, and look forward to a growing and more active society, of which I hope to be a part.

Sincerely, J. Paul Yost,
Pres. Livingston County Historical Society.

The sale of the house was negotiated by Reid Tombaugh and Francis Lehman, with a down payment of $1,000.00, total cost $6,000.00, for which the Humiston Trust paid the entire cost. The house will be presented to the Historical Society by the Humiston Trust, if the Society is eligible to receive it. President Yost appointed Attorney. and Livingston County Historical Society Director Henry Phillips, of Fairbury, to determine if we meet the requirements of the Humiston Trust—to use and furnish the house as a Museum, for the benefit of the community. There was then a motion by Attorney Phillips, seconded by J. M. Luther, that we accept, with regret. the resignation of J. Paul Yost. as president. Motion carried, and Vice President, Reid Tombaugh, conducted the balance of the meeting. Thus ended my 12-1/2 years as President of the Livingston County Historical Society.

J. Paul Yost, President

January 29, 1964

Dear Paul, you will find enclosed Bulletin No. 1 of the Livingston County Historical Association that was published March 5, 1925.

Mr. Henry J. Mies was a real student of our early Indians and we expect his notes may be found in the homes of some of his relatives.

While this pamphlet was published thirty nine years ago it was a step in the right direction. Sincerely, Lewis C. McGregor

BULLETIN NO. 1 OF THE Livingston County Historical Association March 5, 1925 Published and Distributed by the KIWANIS CLUB OF PONTIAC

FOREWORD At a meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Pontiac in November the following paper on the Indian life, habits and history of this region was read by Kiwanian Henry Meis. Mr. Meis has long been a collector of Indian relics and a student of Indian lore. He has a large and interesting collection of relics found in various parts of this county. The members of Kiwanis were so impressed with the paper that it resulted in bringing about definite action on the formation of a Livingston County Historical Society. A committee consisting of Henry Meis, Grant Armstrong, D. S. Myers, Jr., J. B. Grotevant and W. W. McCulloch was appointed to take the initial steps. Rev. John H. Ryan was added to the committee at their first meeting, the other members feeling that no other man in the county is better versed in its early history. The above committee has secured a charter and at the last meeting o the board of Supervisors a room in the Court House was provided as a museum in which to keep all interesting historical material that may be contributed. Any one who has historic relics or who knows of any that might be should added to the collection correspond with some member of the above committee or with the supervisor of his township. We feel sure there

are many who will be glad to co-operate in making our County collection one of real historic value.

Early Indian History of Livingston County

Not a great deal of Indian history can he written when confined to a territory as small as Livingston County, yet the little that can be written should not be left unrecorded. Some day the student, the Investigator, the collector will be asking questions, seeking information, wondering what the Indian has left to enrich our history.

It, perhaps, will fall to the collector to give a classification of the Indian's work in the stone age. I will try to present some facts regarding our local Indians based on years of experience and research, having before me a vast array of material on the subject. I am greatly indebted to the many who have given me specimens found by them in various localities in Livingston County, and to the others who have shown me specimens from their own private collections.

Many of these specimens are of late origin having come from the Illini and Kickapoo tribes who roamed this section up to 1832. Everywhere along our streams, over our great moraines, and uplands he has left his barb. The many things fashioned by the Indian cause even the collector to wonder. Here too is found the barb of extreme age, even the chemist can not calculate the time it took to oxidize the stone, giving the surface this glaze and luster, this covering of patina. No doubt that superior race of men, the Illini, followed our beautiful Vermillion and aged before that, others found our open prairie a great hunting ground.

It is almost within the memory of men of today that much of this information could have been recorded. Less than 100 years ago these streams and upland were theirs. It is within the memory of many of our pioneers who cleared the land and brought to the

collector this wonderful array of handiwork, buried history of the past. Less than 100 years ago Indians cultivated corn in this County, yet the little crib (the Kickapoo storehouse) is forgotten. Corn Grove in Section 28. Chatsworth Township, where it once stood is now a cultivated field.

It has been the writer's experience and pleasure to find these barbs by the hundred, and even some handiwork of the Mound Builder's race. He has marveled, he was enacted, at the skill and patience the workmen had, using stone against stone, fashioning weapons which were so necessary for his protection and existence. His work in the higher arts, his ornaments, his emblems, his charms. so enduring is most of it made, that it has withstood the raves of the elements and of time. Some of his work is checked by the many prairie fires that have swept our up-lands and some has crumbled. Even in the short space of 90 years the Indian is forgotten.

"Gone all thy world O Arrow Head,
Gone are the hands that made thee so,
Gone is the warrior and his bow,

Gone is the quarry and the oak,
Gone are the wild red forest folk,
Like their own bolts forever sped,
Gone all thy world O Arrow Head."

Not a massacre occurred in the County, not even a battle field has been found or recorded. Our Indians remained peaceable in the unrest of l831-32 — The Sauk and Black Hawk War. Not until a race has passed from the face of the earth will investigations be made. Such is history. I have waited for an opportune time to present some facts regarding our first inhabitants. There is a deeper interest being shown at this time, and on the pages of our history their story can be told as it should be. It is only due to the coming generations that the story should be told with the object lessons and the ideals of a race before them. As a collector, as an investigator, in

my den I can see the connecting link of his handiwork when I compare our manufactured tools of iron and steel with his of stone. I can see they played a part. Theirs were the forerunner of a larger and better civilization. What a history we could have had, had our early pioneers written their story when they lived among the red men. I could not help being impressed as the plow exposed for me the barb, or lap anvil, the mortar dish, and the battle-ax. I have plowed the virgin soil within the city limits of Chicago and exposed the war point from its hidden past. I plowed up the two bitted stone ax so old that we wonder who fashioned it so. From these and many, many others that I have found I have, as best I could, woven their story. In classifying their work I feel it would be of interest to you to know how this information is gleaned, and the naming of their handiwork, giving terms that are so familiar to us to-day. These had their origin in the stone age. In our patent office at Washington can be found some of their exact duplicates and on these patents are granted to-day.

The classification of their work is as follows: 1st shape, 2nd size, 3rd material. 4th color, 5th, condition, 6th age, 7th workmanship, 8th locality. 9th the date found and 10th comments. This opens up a field almost unbelievable, but such it should, to obtain reliable records of their handiwork. It then can be indexed and scored. The above points are subdivided. Under workmanship we have five divisions, work in flaked and chipped objects, such as the arrowhead, the hunting spear, the knives, drills, scrapers, and chisels. The next is work in pecked objects such as the stone hammer, slugs, axes, celts, and hatchets or tomahawks. The next is work in polished objects, such as slate ornaments. The next is moulded work, such as pottery. Then comes the work in copper which is hammered ware.

In use they are divided: Weapons of warfare and chase; implements of agriculture, work in ornaments, work in emblems and ceremonials in religion; charms, pipes, plumb bobs, banner stones, gorgets, amulets, discoids, paint cups, and others. Some are classed

as artifacts and problematics, their use to us unknown. Under the head of warfare and chase the objects used were the grooved ax, grooved stone hammer slugs, the un-grooved celt, or tomahawk, skinning knives. and daggers. The war club, set with points, had somewhat passed out of use belonging more to the Paleolithic period of the stone age. Still the war' points are quite numerous. evidence of a change in the method of warfare. The weapons of range, those that would carry a distance are the lance head, the hunting spear, and the bow and arrows. In the miscellaneous type we have the free hand skinning knife, the notched knife, the beveled knife, the beveled or rotary arrow, scrapers of many kinds and shapes, and chisels of many designs such as the freehand, beveled, notched, and stemmed, also many types of drills. stone pencils for picture writing and hieroglyphics, fluted arrows, some gouged, both in flaked and pecked. The types of smaller arrows are quite numerous, such as the smaller arrows are quite numerous, such as the small bird barbs, the small lances, spears and fish points. In all it would take pages to describe them. To illustrate, an arrow is classified first as to point, 2nd, the edge or face, 3rd. the bevel, 4th, the blade. 5th, the tang. 6th, the stem, 7th, the base, 8th, the neck, and 9th. the barb or shoulder.

The implements of agriculture are not so numerous, yet are very interesting and are work of a higher order. Implements of stone shape the way for a higher order of civilization. In 1828-29 near Rock Island over 3,000 acres of corn in one spot flourished and ripened. Here in our County we find the mortar dish, the pestle and grinder, the notched hoe, adz, and hafted spade, evidence of agriculture. The higher the order of workmanship the less numerous are the objects. Now and then their ornaments ceremonials and charms are found. Their carved effigies and pottery ware show a marked advance in the stone age. Fragments of pottery ware are sometimes found at old camp sites, but as so little is found I will not go into detail regarding it. No doubt at permanent camps pottery ware was made and burnt. They found in this locality all the tempering material, such as clay, sand and shells. using pulverized

stone with their burnt clay. So far I have seen but one piece of glazed pottery with colored design from this locality. We marvel at the perfect contour of line, and uniform thickness, when we consider that perhaps the pottery wheel was unknown at this time. Further history of pottery ware must be based on vases and ware found in burial mounds, and as over 30 years have passed since the opening of one, much history has been lost. I am in hopes that some day further information may be added.

Now and then bone awls as well as squid sewing needles are found. Bone ware was used for many purposes. such as cutting. flaking and drilling. I cannot pass by this interesting work of drilling with either bone or stone. Even at some of his other handiwork we stand perplexed, when we know that our workmen of to-day can not duplicate their work. Holes were drilled in small pearls and also through the hardest of materials such as granite and hematite.

They knew the value of sand in drilling and in many cases silica are found. One that I recall was a bone flute found in this locality, having little holes or perforations made in a straight line so that the same could be fingered. Such ware to-d ay is very rare, most of it having decayed . The finding of musical instruments shows a refining influence even in primitive life as we weave together the story of human progress. Perhaps the first musical sound heard was the clanking of stones at the quarries where they were broken and fashion into weapons. Our Indians here had developed music to quite a high art, using five notes to the scale and making their run down instead of up as we do.

It might be interesting to know that most of our Indian handiwork is made of stone transported, as we had no quarries here in the County. The only material that could be found for work was in our glacial drift. The heavy weapons of warfare and chase were made from the glacial granite pebbles found along our streams. This accounts for the many beautiful specimens and the variety of color found in our axes, celts, and hatchets or tomahawks. Now and then an ax of jade

is found. In the flaked and chipped ware the material shows much barter and trade from other quarries, therefore the great variety and color of stone. We find ware of obsidian, agate, camelian, jasper, petrified wood, transparent quartz, and many others of flint and chert, and now and then a local pebble of solidified coral and even some with the imprint of the sea lily or crinoidea. The mill pore, the mound and chain coral, were made into beautiful arrows. So interesting is this to the collector that class workmanship is recognized and also that the workman was considering color and beauty in the stone cutting art. It is probably true that skilled workmen were making this a specialty, since Longfellow mentions the ancient arrow maker. The most prized of all this work are objects made from hematite, an iron ore transported from the Lake Superior region and the Iron Mountains of Missouri. We find the grooved ax, the celt or hatchet, the plumb bob, and the skinning knife. The skill and patience exhibited in fashioning these objects would easily class the maker as a master workman. The material had a hardness of from 4.5 to 6.5 and a specific gravity of 4.9 to 5.3. Some of this ware is quite magnetic. I might say that now and then ferruginous ware is found, although quite rare in this locality. It also has a hardness of 5 on a scale of 10.

Copper objects also are quite rare in this locality. I have a few found along the Illinois River at Buffalo Rock near Ottawa. The objects found in caches or pockets are not numerous, yet many that have been found have been forgotten. Only those interested have kept a record. Perhaps many will come to light as interest increases. Mr. J. B. Grotevant's find is the best so far. His find of 26 pieces of spades (agricultural implements) found in a cache near Ocoya is very interesting. A small cache near Scovel contained arrow heads and another near Cullom a mortar dish and battle ax with a celt and a few arrows.

Quite a few have been found along our Vermillion by early settlers in the clearing of the timber. Some were found under trees and some

the plow would expose, yet it was of no interest, simply a passing incidents.

Indian picture writing has, through the hand of man, become obliterated. Now and then small record stones are found. Along the north bank of Five Mile Creek some writing was found and is now in Mr. James Smith's collection at Saunemin. I sent a duplicate copy to the Bureau of Ethnology but it could not be deciphered. All our timbered spots along the Vermillion show signs of Indian habitation. Even around the old oak trees at Five Mile Grove I can still find their flakes. At Five Mile three of the old French hand-made trader's axes were found. In the timber spot near Wing quite a few arrows are found. The spot east of that, the Ox Bow, is where I found a good specimen of the ax-makers art which had been turned up by the dredge boat.

It might be of interest to mention the signal hills of our County such as Sugar Loaf south of Kempton. Here quite a few arrow heads have been found. The depression in that hill was not of Indian origin but was used as an outpost by the early prairie bandits to give them a wide outlook over the swamp region. Sugar Loaf has an elevation of a little over 750 feet. The next is the Smith Mound just South of Blackstone with about the same elevation. Here many arrows have been found. This mound is not of Indian origin. The next are the Grey Knobs south of Chatsworth at Oliver's Grove, (once known as Kickapoo Grove) near where the moraine divides. This has an elevation of 831 feet. From these hills news was conveyed over this region by signal fires.

The Indian burial mounds are nearly all obliterated along the Vermillion. Their elevation was only a few feet, so in the clearing of the timber and the cultivation of the land many were not even recognized. The Tom Smith Mound in Avoca Township near the junction of Indian Grove Creek had an elevation of about 5 feet. The writer has stood on it in an early day not knowing it was a mound. Not till the opening of the mound for a cellar did it reveal its hidden

treasures. These are now scattered to the four winds. Even in his resting place, in his endless sleep, the Indian is disturbed. Another civilization takes his place, so forgetful that not a line is recorded. This is the only mound recognized by collectors as of very old origin. Around the mound was a great camping ground, perhaps the largest in the County. The finds here were very numerous and of many different types.

Following along this line I will mention a few other camping places of importance. The second is the bench land along the Vermillion in Amity Township. This is very rich in finds. Even last spring I found a battle ax, celt and arrows on fields cultivated over 50 years. Our treasure spot at Pontiac is the old Indian camping grounds east of town known as Rollins Grove. All our collectors have visited this old camp site and pictured what might have been in the long ago when the Indian teepees numbered into the hundreds. All around this old camping ground their chipped objects are quite numerous, and on the old trails to-day the barb can still be found. Let us preserve this beauty spot along our beautiful Vermillion, this one spot that is so closely linked with the primitive. Let the springs that are still there quench our thirst. That which they have loved, let us love, that over which their children roamed let ours roam, for those that are yet to come let it be preserved and not defiled.

Another area of bluff or bench land is that of the old or ancient channel of the Vermillion near the McCormack homestead south and east of Pontiac, sometimes call the Ox Bow. Here are still the springs. Here too the barb is found. A Miss McCormack has quite a collection from this locality. Other camping places are known but I am drifting to a close. I have had my dreams of this old Ox Bow. Here a beautiful artificial lake could be made such as it once was. I would like to name it Kickapoo Lake after the Kickapoo Indians who lived there.

It would be indeed an interesting history if all our finds of Indian relics could be preserved, gathered in one museum and classified.

What a light would gleam from the hazy past! It would surprise one if he could read the history of a forgotten race from the actual evidence upon the collector's shelves. The collector has gathered together the scattered fragments that tell the story, a story in stone, deserving a place in the history of our county. Much of our Indian handiwork is scattered, some carried away, some lost, some destroyed. The writer has heard of some fine specimens being broken, many an arrow has been broken and defaced to see flint strike fire. This is to be regretted for they cannot be restored. The hand that so easily destroys can not duplicate.

The specimens found in my own Township, Saunemin (named after a sub-chief under Chicago), I have carefully marked, and others given me have received the same consideration. It has been my intent and purpose in this short sketch to give a brief classification of the Indian handiwork of this County, perhaps never given before. To the student, to the investigator, and to the collector, I lend my co-operation.

Henry J. Meis,
Pontiac, III.

Supplement: 1. Mies — Indian History. 2. Catharine Yost—"History of Pontiac,"—Historical Society Program, Dec. 14, 1967. 3. Hellene L. Yost—(Front Page)—"History of Pontiac Presbyterian Church, 1855-1961." EARLY HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND PONTIAC, ILLINOIS CATHERINE V. YOST

Catharine V. Yost

Catharine V. Yost

Catharine V. Yost, with Tom Googerty and Dr. Lockie, founded The Amitytown Society of Painters.

The history of Livingston County may roughly be divided into three epochs:

I. Occupation by the Indians from the discovery of the country by the French until the first white settlers in 1829;

II. From 1829 until the coming of the railroad in 1854;

and III. From 1854 to about 1880.

The Illini Indians were the first inhabitants of which history gives any authentic account. The name "Illini" means "superior men," and applied to a confederation of tribes, the Peorias, Moinquienas, Kas-kas-kias, Tamaroos, and Cahokias. Chicago was their great chief. Against this confederation the Kickapoos, Pottawatomies, and Miamis combined for a war of extermination.

The Illini made their last stand on Starved Rock in 1774. But the victors in dividing the spoils again resorted to war. In this struggle the Kickapoos and the Pottawatomies combined against the Miamis and pushed them back beyond the Wabash River.

After the battle on Sugar Creek the two victorious tribes divided the land between them. An old Indian trail passing near Oliver's Grove in the southeast part of Livingston County was the dividing line. The Pottawatomies took the west side and would often come up as far as Rooks Creek and frequently camped on the Vermilion River.

There was an oil painting in the Pontiac Public Library called "Pontiac in 1794," which depicted this early time of the Indians. The picture, painted by George Colby and presented to the library on its opening in 1894, is a view just below the Mill Street Bridge and shows the Indians camped on the site of the present jail property, with the old river. ford in the background. It disappeared when the library moved temporarily to City Hall.

The Kickapoos on the east built their Council House in Indian Grove in 1828, and in 1830 moved to Oliver's Grove, where they built a large Council House and 97 wigwams. There is an old Indian burial

ground on the old John Balmer farm. John Balmer used to tell the story that for years he remembered an old Indian of the Shabonis, who would make a pilgrimage every year from Ottawa. He would sit all night in this burial ground, smoking his pipe, and then return to Ottawa.

In 1829, V. M. Darnell and Fredrick Rook were the first white men to settle in what is now Livingston County. Darnell settled in Indian Grove, and Rook in what is now Rooks Creek. They were the only white families here during the great snow of 1830-31. The snow was four feet deep. Their families, as well as the Indians, suffered severely from cold and scarcity of food.

In 1832 the first mission was established here among the Indians by a Methodist minister, Rev. William Walker from Ottawa. In that same year, 1832, William McDowell and his five sons settled in Avoca. They bought their materials from the Kickapoos to build their homes.

The Black Hawk War was then going on, and the situation of the settlers became alarming. On May 29 the whole company, consisting of seven families and six wagons, pulled out for Indiana and turned the embryo county back to the Indians. The A. B. Phillips and the James Spence families had taken refuge in a fortification on the Mackinaw River.

When the settlers from Indiana returned, they settled a few miles east of Pontiac. The Spence family returned to their land near Fairbury, and today it is still in the same family. There is a bronze plaque there which records the history of the place.

The first white child born in the county was in the A. B. Phillips family.

The Indian troubles were settled in 1835 when the government moved the remainders of the tribes to lands beyond the Mississippi River.

Livingston County was one of the more slowly settled communities because it was mostly swamp land and drainage was the problem to be solved. It was called the "Vermillion Swamp." and "the Horsefly Kingdom" with malaria and insect pests. The first drainage was open ditches made by a dredging plow drawn by fifteen to thirty yoke of oxen.

Henry Weed and the Young brothers came from New York in 1833 and built the first cabin in what is now Pontiac. This was the same year Chicago became a town with only thirteen white men of voting age. Twelve voted for it and one against. establishing the town of Chicago.

On July 26, 1837, the town of Pontiac was surveyed and plotted by Isaac Whicher—the Courthouse square, jail lots, and six acres reserved for mill purposes, with all streets as they are today. The first regular term of the Circuit Court was held in the spring of

1840 in the Weed log cabin. The jury held its deliberations on a pile of saw logs on the banks of the river. The story has been handed down that Lincoln and Douglas tried a law suit here, and that Lincoln stayed in a cabin on the site of the John Schneider house, now the city parking lot by the Mill Street Bridge.

The first Courthouse was built in 1839-40 by John Foster for $800, with James McKee from Joliet, C.H. Perry from Jacksonville, and Jesse Fell of Normal as sureties, assuming the financial obligation of $3,000. The interest of McKee and Perry grew out of the fact that they had built a sawmill and erected a dam in 1838, across the river on the corner of Mill and Water Streets, site of the former Williams Mill. Perry had a combination store and home just across the road on the Schneider property, now a city parking lot.

John Foster from New York, in 1836, helped build a dam, a sawmill, and the first Courthouse. This Courthouse was a modest affair--a frame building 22 ft. x 30 ft., a story and a half high. (See picture). Init were held debating societies, church, public school, "indignation meetings," and ratification meetings.

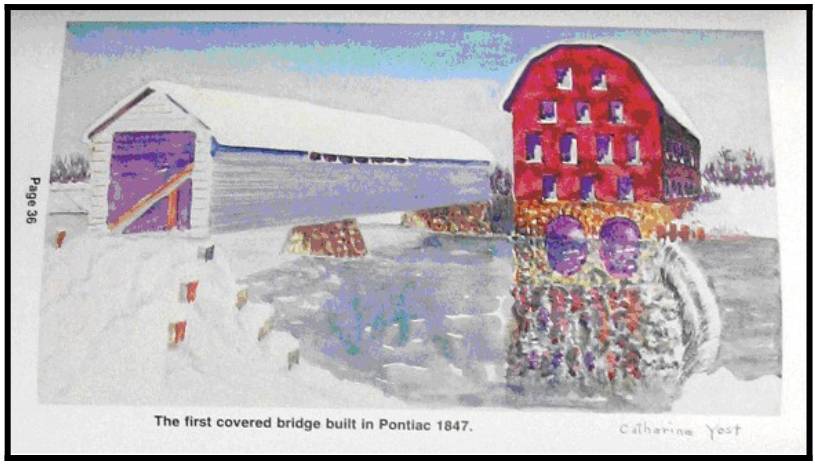
The first attorney-at-law was John McGregor, who came from Ottawa in 1853.

One cause of rejoicing over the building of the Courthouse was that it settled the question that Pontiac was to be the county seat, In August '39 there had been an election "for the purpose of moving the seat of Justice several miles up the river," The argument was that Pontiac, being so low and marshy, was an unhealthy site for a town.

The town grew very little in the nest ten years. In 1847 Mr. Rollins and DeMoss built the first bridge at Pontiac. At that time there were only a half dozen cabins besides the Courthouse and these were scattered along clumps of bushes.

in 1848 the first hotel was Bucks Tavern on the corner of East Washington and Locust Streets, now the site of the Evenglow Lodge. Mrs. Buck Maria—married— Mr., Owens and their home was the present location of the Harris Funeral Home, Maria Buck—Owens was one of the five original members of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1849 was the terrible cholera season, The ravages made in this section were terrible. Business was stopped and intercourse with the outside world was cut off for some time.



The ague was quite prevalent in the county. too. Mr. Lewis McGregor tells me that whiskey was considered to be the best cure. In the little general store, situated on W. Howard Street near the lumber yards, the manager, Mr. Billy Cowan, saw to it that every patient should receive the cure. In the back of his store he put a 52-gallon barrel of whiskey and attached several tin cups to the barrel. Everyone was free to come in and drink as much as he saw fit to cure the ague.

During 1854 an event occurred which affected the destiny of the town. The C & A Railroad, then called "Chicago and Mississippi Railroad," was completed and the first train passed through Pontiac on July 4, 1854.

Commerce is said to be the great civilizer and educator of communities as well as nations. With the railroad came people, and with the people came schools and churches.
With the railroad also came improved methods of farming, better plows, and better means of harvesting grain. The people began to utilize all that vast extent of country which, until then, was thought to be useless except for pasture.

A year later, the population had increased to over three hundred .

A newspaper was started March 14, 1855. by J. S. France, a lawyer from Ottawa. In 1853 Henry Greenebaum established a clothing store, and a year later his brother Joseph joined him. Billings Babcock came from New York in 1848 and was elected judge in 1852.

In 1856 Morris Johnson came from Monroe County, West Virginia. His son E. M. Johnson began the practice of law here after graduating from the University of Michigan, and in 1871, with C. A. McGregor, purchased "The Free Trader." The village of Pontiac was incorporated under the general law of the state on Feb. 12, 1856, by electing a Board of Trustees—Nelson Buck, J. W. Strevell, S. C. Ladd. Z. H. Nettleton, and H. Jones.

Henry Jones built the first brick house in town in 1856. It is the house still occupied standing in the 300 block on West Howard Street. Also in the following year he built the brick house at 314 East Madison Street.

Perhaps I should digress for a few minutes here to tell how the coming of the railroad affected other parts of the county.

Fairbury—Laid out about the time of the building of the Toledo' Peoria and Warsaw Railroad in 1859 and was first called "Chanute" after Octave Chanute, one of the Civil Engineers of the road. Forrest was likewise a railroad town.

Chatsworth was named by the president of the Illinois Central Railroad for the country seat of the Duke of Devonshire in Scotland, who was largely interested in that railroad.

We find that it was about this time that the mythical village of Richmond really did exist. It was located two miles east of Pontiac and was laid out and platted by Franklin Oliver in June 1851. Rumors of a railroad through this section were afloat, and they

speculated on that place as being the best spot for a railroad bridge across the Vermilion. Stores, shops, and a school house soon sprang into existence, lots were sold and houses were built.

But the railroad lacked two miles of passing through this historic village, and its bright anticipation burst like a bubble and vanished almost as quickly. Some of the buildings were removed to Pontiac.

Saunemin took its name from an old chieftain of the Kickapoos.

Swygart on the Illinois Central Railroad took its name from Emanuel Swygart, who settled there in 1859 from Pennsylvania.

By this time the German Lutherans around Flanagan had built a large church and school for higher education in what was called Windtown, because they had the first windmill. But in 1857, Patrick Flanagan came in with the railroad and bought up huge tracts from the Illinois Central Railroad Company and persuaded them to make a big curve in their line to pass through his land, thus making it easier for him to ship his cattle. So that's the time Windtown became Flanagan.

Then there was the lost village of New Michigan in Newton Township near Streator (Manville). There had been a small settlement since 1838. The Richards had come from Michigan and named it after their native state. At this time the Michigan and Illinois Canal was completed, and lumber for building could be purchased in Ottawa now instead of hauling it from Chicago. Soon New Michigan was the most thriving village in the county.

In 1854 it had another boom period on hearing that the "Great Air Line" Railroad was to go through there. In 1856 a school for higher education was founded, called the New Michigan Academy. In '59 Mr. O. F. Pearre was employed and took charge of the school for three years. But the "Great Air Line" Railroad never materialized. The Illinois Central and Chicago and Mississippi Railroads attracted

merchants and tradespeople to other points, and soon New Michigan with its Academy was no more.

Cornell was built on land owned by William Cornell when the Chicago and Paducah Railroad was built through there. There had been a group of early settlers around there in Amity Township since the Reynolds brothers built cabins there in 1833. This farm is now the Husted farm where we went painting so often with Tom Googerty.

The first mill in the county was built there. Joseph Reynolds became the first Sheriff of Livingston County and his brother C. W. Reynolds the first Postmaster. It is said the Post Office was his hat. In those days the recipient of a letter paid the Postmaster generally twenty-five cents before he could receive it. At times the Postmaster carried a letter for some time while the postage money was being collected for it.

Odell dates from the completion of the Chicago and Mississippi Railroad. It takes its name from William Odell who owned most of the land.

Blackstone was named for the President of the Railroad.

Dwight was also built on the coming of the Chicago and Mississippi Railroad in 1853. James McIllduff came from Pennsylvania the following year and bought a farm which was the first "breaking of the prairie" in that township. The first store in Dwight was built by David McWilliams in 1855. He later added a Bank. In 1855 the population was augmented by the arrival of Isaac Baker, S. L. D. Ramsey, and Dr. J. Hagerty from Pennsylvania.

The town was named for Henry Dwight, a New York capitalist who furnished most of the money for building the railroad from Joliet to Bloomington.

It is often thought that Pontiac derived its name from the supposition that the Indian chief, Pontiac, once roamed these parts. This. however, is not the case. Mr. Jesse Fell of Normal stated in a letter that he inserted the name of Pontiac in the petition for a Post Office applied for by Mr. Weed because he felt the Indian names should be preserved.

A year after the completion of the railroad through Pontiac, the first was built on the west corner of the jail property in 1855.

As the town grew, so did the desire for a dedicated place of worship.

The Presbyterians, organized in 1855 by Rev. L H. Loss with five members, had been holding meetings in the school house on the jail lot. But in 1856 subscriptions were taken to build a church.

The church was dedicated Nov. 15, 1857, on the corner of Mill and West Livingston Streets, with the Rev. I. T. Whitmore as pastor and Henry Greenebaum as organist. In 1872, on building a new church, they sold the old church to Wallace Lord, who moved it to the 200 block of West Howard Street, near the corner of Plum, and used it as an opera house. To quote from The Livingston County History of 1878, "Though the building is no longer a place to worship, it is still the Lord's house."

The Methodists dedicated their church Dec. 3, 1857, about a month after the Presbyterians. But they had been having services in several places throughout the county since 1833.

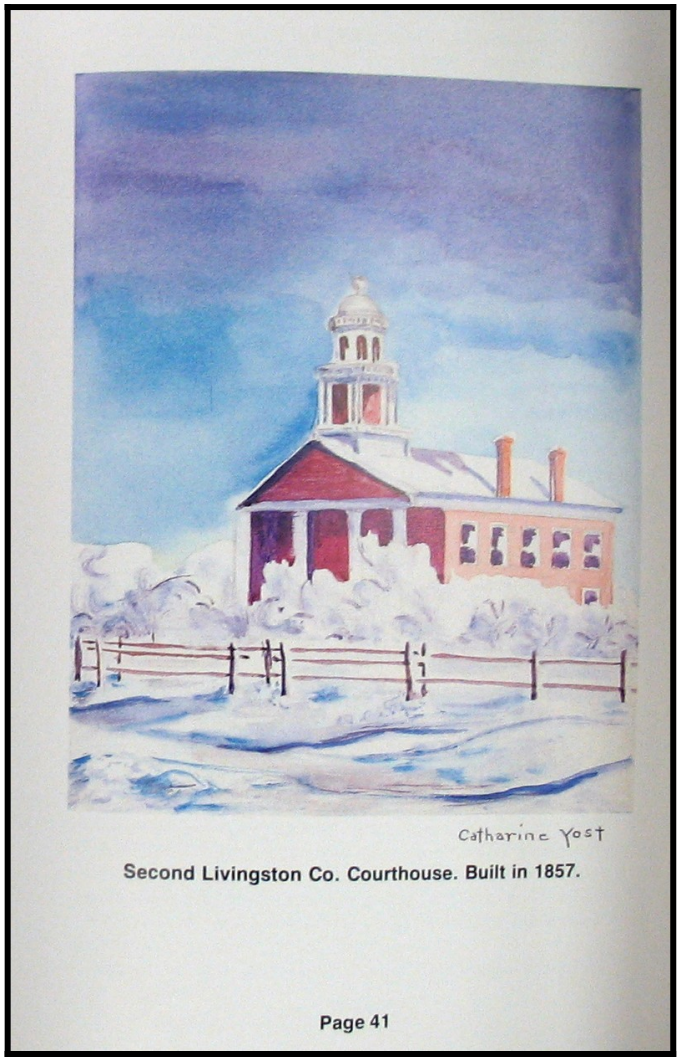
In 1866 they sold this church to the Catholics. The new church, on the present site, was completed and dedicated in 1871 with the Rev. Mr. Spurlock as pastor.

During the Civil War every male member of the church enlisted, except for two. One of those was a cripple and the other was a physician. Every member returned without a scratch.

Mrs. Tindell and Mrs. Ruth Carlin solicited subscriptions and collected $400.00 for a bell for the church in 1874. The names of the two women were cast in raised letters on the bell. It was destroyed in the church fire in February 1885.

The Catholics the old Methodist Church. It was on the block where the present Catholic Church now stands except it was in the middle of the block and faced west. Later it was sold and moved off to become the stage of "Folks Opera House" on East Water Street.

Baptists—First church in 1865 with the Rev. Fredrick Ketchum as pastor, who also had charge of the public school across the street on the Jail property. Later the church became the Lutheran Church, and after that the Water Street Baptist Church.



Second Livingston Co. Courthouse. Built in 1857.

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The Christian Church1865, was on Prairie and Plum Streets. The colored people had two churches.

The colored Methodists first used the school house on the jail property. In 1872, they bought their church on the corner of

Washington and Oak Streets. This building had been erected as an Academy of Music and was called Turners Hall.

The colored Baptists worshipped in the old school house. Then later they moved the school house to Prairie Street. Later it was moved farther east on Prairie and made into a dwelling.

Once the center of economic life of the community was the old mill —the third to stand on the site of the present mill. The first one was a sawmill, then a grist mill purchased in 1857 by Thomas Williams who drove here from New York with Mr. Babcock. After the Civil War, a large four-story mill was built which burned on Nov. 17, 1891. It was rebuilt in 1893, and burned down again April 9, 1955.

Mr. Williams is quoted as saying that from his mill windows, looking south, he could see the T. P. & W. Railroad, and looking north, could see the Illinois Central trains.

John Dehner built the first brick building in town facing the Courthouse square—west side. It was three stories high. The third floor was used for meetings and dances. (Now Lehman's Store building.)

In 1857 a new Courthouse was built under the judgeship of B. P. Babcock, who was later instrumental in building the Pontiac Public Library. This Courthouse was of brick and faced north. While it was being erected, Luke Jordan dug up small trees from along the river and planted them in the Courthouse yard. They stand there to this day.

Later on, when the Methodists were building their new church of 1866, the County bought their old bell and hung it in the Courthouse steeple. The bell tolled for deaths, fires, and important meetings. It rang for the last time in the fire of 1874.

The old first Courthouse building was moved just east of the square on Madison Street. There it was used for school and for City Hall. Later it was moved on Madison Street to the lot just west of J. C. Greenebaum's residence. Still later, it was cut in half and moved to North Hazel Street, where it was made into two houses.

In 1859, on Nov. 26, a tornado blew off the Courthouse steeple and roof. Among the homes destroyed at that time was Mrs. Hull's home, 230 West Water Street, which had its second story blown away.

Pontiac has had numerous and destructive fires. The first big fire was Dec. 8, 1869. It destroyed the Schneider building, Croswell's Drug Store, and several other buildings. On July 7, 1870, fire broke out in Herbert and Sons store. The fire burned it, as well as the Odd Fellows Hall and the City Hotel. It continued to the corner of Mill and Madison Streets (Bradfords Drug Store), then turned west on Madison and burned half of that block.

Nov. 2, 1871, a fire burned the Union Block on the south side of the square, but it was soon rebuilt.

The Phoenix Hotel was built in 1873 by Mr. Crane and Mr. Thomas Williams; but only a few months after it was completed, it was destroyed by the July 4, 1874, fire, which destroyed the whole block as well as the Courthouse. Moore Foster said the heat was so great that it scorched the paint on the Williams house. The present Courthouse was built soon after that fire.

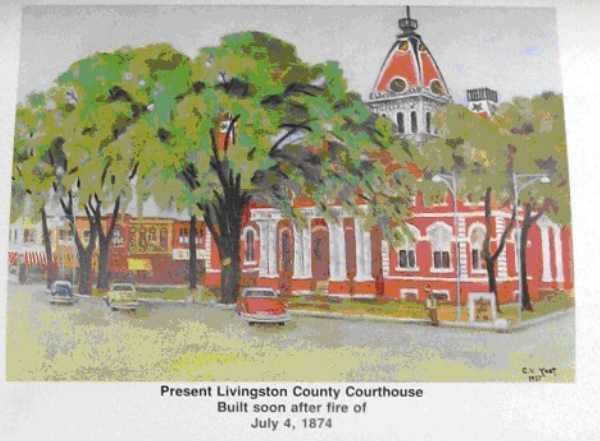
The Pioneer Bankers of Pontiac were Mr. Cowan and Mr. Duff in 1862. They also had the Pontiac Woolen Mills on West Water Street, incorporated for $100,000.

In 1871, the Livingston County National Bank was formed. Eldridge Keith, President; Joseph Greenebaum, vice president; Henry Greenebaum, cashier, and D. C. Eyler, teller.

In 1872, the Chicago and Paducah Railroad was completed through Pontiac (now Wabash). In 1872, Pontiac was organized as a City with the election of Rufus Babcock as the first Mayor, and A. W. Cowan as the first City Clerk.

In 1872, the Illinois Reform School was completed while George W. Perkins was Superintendent. That year, Dr. Scouller became Superintendent.

In 1874, the National Bank of Pontiac was formed, with James Morrow, President; Lester Kent, Vice President; and 0. P. Bourland, cashier.



Present Livingston County Courthouse
Built soon after fire of
July 4, 1874

In that year, Judge R. R. Wallace moved to Pontiac, having been elected judge the previous year.

In 1875, H. J. Clark became editor and manager of The Sentinel. On the south side of the square, Mr. C. W. Sterry completed three new

buildings. Caldwell and McGregor, J. W. Strevell, and Wm. B. Lyon also built three brick store buildings on the north side Of the square.

FAMOUS MEN—In 1860. the Prince of Wales and his hunting party visited several days on the Spencer farm near Dwight.

Abraham Lincoln visited here on at least three occasions on record. The first occasion was the trial of a lawsuit in the 1840's, exact date not known. The second occasion was in February 1855. The train on which Lincoln was traveling from Chicago to Springfield became snowbound just this side of Cayuga. Volunteers from Pontiac went with their sleds to bring the passengers to Pontiac.

Mr. Lincoln and several others were guests in the home of Mr. John McGregor. Before taking his departure, he proffered Mrs. McGregor money for his keep; but this was positively refused. Then, to quote from "Livingston County 1878," "As Mr. Lincoln and other guests were leaving the hospitable home for the depot, they were accompanied to the gate by Mrs. McGregor's two daughters, Emma and Elizabeth. Reaching down in his pocket. Mr. Lincoln secured two gold dollars, and, placing them in the hands of the thoroughly surprised young ladies, passed through the gate and on to the depot.

Lincoln's third visit was Jan. 27, 1860, to deliver a lecture at the Presbyterian Church under the auspices of The Young Men's Debating Society. Mr. Jason Strevell, an attorney, entertained him at his home 'now known as the Dolde house (or Tallman), West Livingston and Oak Streets).

General U. S. Grant visited here May 4. 1880. Mayor E. M. Johnson delivered the address of welcome, and a breakfast was given for Grant in the Phoenix.

Those who dined with him were: N. J. Pillsbury, H. H. McDowell, S. S. Lawrence, Aswold Thornton, H. E. Harding, P. M. Schwarz, R.

R. Wallace, W. T. Ament, E. M. Johnson. B. P. Babcock, John Taylor. Fred Alles, C. C. Strawn. D. M. Lyon. J C McMullin.

In closing, I want to tell you about the time that an interesting incident took place, my mother, Ella Hartshorn, was a little girl in grade school.

A prominent man of those years went home on Saturday night quite drunk. He had been in a bitter argument over politics. His good wife had to listen to his ranting. When he said he was going to shoot off the cannon on the Courthouse yard and blow up the whole town, she became very frightened for fear he might do it.

She ran to her neighbor friend and the two women plotted how to foul up his threats They took a lantern and walked to the Courthouse lawn where the cannon was lodged. They pulled, pushed, and tugged at the cannon until it rolled off onto the road, at the corner of Washington and Main Streets by the Phoenix Hotel.

After it started, It wasn't too heavy for them to start it on the downward path to Water Street, where they gave it a grand push. The cannon bounced and rolled down the hill and plunged Into the river, disappearing in ten feet of water. There was quite a stir in town as to who stole the cannon. The woman made her daughter swear never to reveal their secret. Long after her mother's death she told the story of the missing cannon, which I suppose lies imbedded in the silt of the river's bed to this day.

The following interesting article from the Leader of June 5, 1935, was among the material Catharine had kept for her "History of Pontiac and Livingston County" talk she gave to the Historical Society. Moore Foster often painted with Dr. Lockie, one of the founders of the Amitytown Society of Painters.

Of particular interest is the reference to the building and construction of the Jones house-314 E. Madison St., Pontiac, and also the Jones house in the 300 Block of W. Howard St., the first brick building constructed in Pontiac, by Henry Jones, the owner.

Describes Life Near Pontiac In Last Century

Among articles sealed in the corner stone of the new billet of Aarvig-Campbell post No. 78, American Legion, in Rollins' grove, east of Pontiac, which was laid with appropriate ceremonies on Decoration day, was a historical sketch of Pontiac prepared by Moore Foster, 808 East Madison street.

Mr. Foster is a descendant of one of the pioneers of the vicinity In which the lodge is located and details of the story he has written have been handed down to him. He is a grandson of John Foster, one of the pioneer settlers of New Richmond, a town which once stood near the lodge, and a son of Robert Foster, a Pontiac pioneer,

Text of Sketch.

The complete historical sketch follows:

The ground you are building on and the land immediately surrounding it was once a large Indian town belonging to the Shabanees and the Kickapoos. The Kickapoos came from the direction of Danville and the Shabanees from Ottawa and up around the Rock river. Old Chief Shabanee was a great friend of the white man and made many friends among the pioneers of the vicinity of Pontiac. All the ground surrounding the billet, mostly on the north and southeast, is full of Indian mounds.

"When John Foster, my grandfather, came to this county in 1829, the wolves and deer ran wild: buffalos roamed the countryside and wild hogs were numerous. Much of the land surrounding the billet was entered by people who made money by selling these hogs. They

were killed, put on wagons and hauled to Chicago where they were sold as food.

Discover Indian Mounds.

"Some Indian mounds were located in this vicinity by the late Mr. Payne, a Springfield banker, who was a great collector of Indian relics. These relics are being sold at the present time, to close his estate.

"Indians trekked to Rock Island and back again and often went over Into Iowa, just visiting and roaming, and often made their camps along the river near the site of the billet.

"According to an old Indian friend of John Foster, my grandfather, arrowheads, darts, etc., found near the site of the billet, were not made by later day Indians but by Indians of an earlier time and were used by the later Indians simply because they found them. An interesting point is the fact that the Indians built their wigwams and huts on the north side of the rivers, only. Never did they build them on the south side. Apparently the reason was because they wanted the sun In front of them and the north wind to their backs.

Rollins Original Owners.

"Philip Rollins and his wife, Martha, were the original owners of the land where the billet is situated. The Rollins farm and the Foster farm, right next to it, (occupied by my grandfather) were places of interest in that it was the meeting place for the 'Forty-Niners', those who went to California in the gold rush. On the Rollins farm was the first white settlement in this vicinity, then known as New Richmond. The Hannamans, DeMosses and Fosters probably did not own any of the land where they lived in this vicinity but lived on it for years before obtaining title.

"There used to be a big spring and milk house just a little above the present site of the billet The kids used to go up there and pick berries and swipe 'Aunt Martha's' milk. That was the meeting place of the young fellows of that time. Across the river, just alongside that spring, was known as Rollins' ford.

Furnished Railroad Ties.

When the railroad was expected to come through, residents of this vicinity contracted for ties. They all came together, the DeMosses, Hannamans, Fosters, Rollins and John Balmer, cut ties, stored them until about 1853 when they delivered them. The railroad was built through in 1854. The men had to go either to Joliet or Ottawa, I forget which, to get their money, which in those days amounted to quite a lot.

"John Balmer, then single, wanted the boys to go together and enter all the land around there and pay the entrance fee with the money obtained from the sale of ties. This they were not willing to do and John took his money and entered the land now known as the Balmer farm southeast of Pontiac. Later John went to Pennsylvania, using what money he had left. On his return he brought with him a wife and the first cook stove in the county. My grandfather had an iron skillet which was borrowed by neighborhoods far and near. Balmer's cook stove and Foster's skillet formed the nucleus for many a good old fashioned dinner in those days.

Used as Picnic Ground.

"What is known as the Foster property now, right next to Rollins' grove, was originally the home of Winslow and Duncan Hanneman's father. It has been a picnic ground ever since I was a little boy. There was, and is, plenty of nice water close and in the old days, plenty of milk in 'Aunt Martha's' milk house and folks usually

helped themselves to it. Jim Bancroft's father lived over on the other corner.

"Henry Jones, a relative of the elder Rollins, was hardly old enough to go along with the older ones on jaunts. He and my father used to run a shingle mill along the river. The lumber in the Jones property —brick residence on East Madison street—was cut out there. Lath used in those days were red oak boards, split and tacked on. The principal part of the lumber in the building on Howard street, now occupied by the Harper and Ruth funeral home, was cut in the Rollins-Foster timber. The lumber in the old American House, recently razed, also came from the Rollins-Foster timber. It was built by Robert Kingore, an uncle of Frank Kingore, at present residing in Pontiac. Just below what is now the Catholic cemetery stood another house also made from timber cut in the grove.

Used Sulphur Spring.

"There used to be a Sulphur spring, which was called a deer lick in those days, near the site of the billet. (Mr. Foster has located this and it will be cleaned out and used). The deer used to come to this spring and lick around the rocks, hence its name. People coming from Saunemin. or what was then Five-Mile Grove, used to stop at this spring while enroute to Pontiac, to water their horses.

"At one time the woods, near the billet, used to be full of peacocks. Aunt Martha Rollins raised large flocks of them. When a rain or storm was due, those birds would get into the trees and screech so loud they could be heard for miles. Many families in those days had their pet bull snake which made its home between the logs of the cabins. The Winslow family had one for years and it was allowed to go about the house at will. Families which had bull snakes around were never bothered by mice. They Winslows also had a pet warty toad. The toad would disappear in the fall and when it came out in the spring the people felt that the corn had to be planted.

Garner Ran the Mill.

"Jerome Garner ran the mill in those days. It was located across the street from where the present mill is located in Pontiac. The first post office in Pontiac was in Jerome Garner's plug hat. When anyone wanted their mail they had to run down Garner first.

"The little creek which runs past the billet used to back up in what we called a bayou. It was a dangerous place to go through. Mose Garner lost his life there when he attempted to ride his horse through it.

"There were lots of summer weddings held in the timber surrounding the billet and guests came clear from Ottawa and Lacon, not such a short distance in those days. The grove has always been a great place in which to find Indian relics such as arrow heads, tomahawks, bones and even whole skeletons. It is a very positive indication that it was a favorite camping place of the Indians.

House Made of Walnut.

"The old house on the Rollins farm was made of walnut, cut in the grove. The timber was hauled to Ottawa and there cut.

"The land surrounding the billet remains pretty much unchanged except that the huge berry patches are not to be found any more and Aunt Martha's milk house has disappeared. At Rollins ford was where they got the sharp river sand, as it was called, which was used in the constructions of many of the buildings in Pontiac. It was used in construction of the Phoenix hotel, among others. The men of those days built a flat bottomed boat which was propelled by two horses on a treadmill. This boat was used to haul the sand down the river to Pontiac."

Hellene L. Yost

HISTORY OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Pontiac, Illinois.
1855-1961.
by
Hellene L. Yost,
and her Brother,
J. Paul Yost.

Dedicated to the memory of their grandmother—Mrs. T. C. Hartshorn, an early member of the church.

Including
Centennial Play,
"A Willing Gift",
by Hellene L. Yost.
1977

(Note: Copies of this History are still available at the Office of the Church for $10.00 a Copy)

CHAPTER 2

Update on Monument to Chief Pontiac

One of the major early accomplishments of the Livingston County Historical Society was to erect a stone monument in 1936 to Chief Pontiac at the southeast corner of the Livingston County Courthouse.

Mother Nature's annual freezing and thawing cycle takes its toll on any outdoors masonry work. As rocks loosened from their mortar, calk was initially used to repair the monument.

By 2015, several rocks had fallen out of the monument. It was time to replace or repair the monument. The Livingston County Historical Society arranged for the monument to be repaired. The repair work started in December of 2015 and was completed soon thereafter. Hopefully, the monument will remain intact for another 80 years before repairs are needed again.

CHAPTER 3

Updates on the Yosts

J. Paul Yost

J. Paul Yost was the President of the Livingston County Historical Society from 1963 to 1976. He passed away March 3, 1988. His obituary from the Pantagraph is shown below:

J. Paul Yost Pontiac -- J. Paul Yost, 91, of Pontiac died at 2:40 a.m. yesterday (March 3, 1988) at Saint James Hospital, Pontiac. He had been seriously ill for three weeks. His funeral will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Raleigh J. Harris Funeral Home, Pontiac, the Rev. William Sexton officiating. Burial will be in South Side Cemetery, Pontiac. Visitation will be an hour before the service at the funeral home.

Mr. Yost was born Jan. 8, 1897, in Pontiac, a son of Z.F. and Ella Hartshorn Yost. Two sisters preceded him in death. Mr. Yost graduated from Pontiac Township High School and was a 1920 graduate of the University of Chicago. An attorney, Mr. Yost had practiced in West Virginia. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Pontiac Elks Lodge, the Pontiac Public Library Board and the Livingston County Historical Society. He served as the society's president from 1963 to 1976.

Mr. Yost was interested in theater and directed many productions in Pontiac. He also had directed plays on Broadway in New York. He wrote the book "Livingston County Historical Society: Its Beginning and Some Later Years," published in 1985. Memorials may be made to the Pontiac Public Library or the Livingston County Historical Society.

Catharine Yost

She was a sister to Paul Yost and was active in the Livingston County Historical Society. Her obituary from the February 18, 1970, Pantagraph is shown below:

Miss Katharine Yost
PONTIAC (PNS) --Miss Katherine Virginia Yost, 76. of 298 W. Water, a local artist. died at 10:10 a.m. Tuesday at St. James Hospital. She had ill six weeks.

Her funeral will he at 2 p.m. Thursday at Raleigh J. Harris Funeral Home. The Rev. Glenn Strang will officiate. Burial will be in South Side Cemetery.

Visitation will he from 5-9 o'clock tonight at the funeral 'home.

She was born Sept. 16, 1893, in Pontiac, a daughter of Z. F. and Ella Louise Hartshorn Yost. She attended Pontiac schools, Randolph-Macon Woman's College at Lynchburg, VA., the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Her father was an attorney in Pontiac and she was the great-great-niece of George Catlin, a well-known portrait painter of the American Indian. Miss Yost was one of the founders of the Amitytown Society of Painters and was a member and current president of the 20th Century Club. She was also a member of the Pontiac Woman's Club and the Livingston County Historical Society. Surviving are a brother, J. Paul and a sister, Miss Hellene L. Yost, both of Pontiac. Miss Yost was a member of the United Presbyterian Church and the women's organizations of the church.

Hellene Yost

She was a sister to Paul Yost and was active in the Livingston County Historical Society. Her obituary from the July 23, 1979, Pantagraph is shown below:

Hellene Yost

PONTIAC (PNS) - The funeral of Hellene L. Yost, 87, of 298 W. Water St., a retired teacher of Latin and English, who died Saturday, will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Raleigh J. Harris Funeral Home. The Rev. Kenneth Dobson will officiate. Burial will be in South Side Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6 to 8 tonight.

She was born Nov. 18, 1891. in Pontiac, a daughter of Z.F. and Ella Hartshorn Yost. Surviving is a brother, J. Paul Yost, Pontiac. A sister preceded her in death. Miss Yost, who taught at Pontiac High School and Rivesville, W. Va.. High School, received a bachelor's degree in Greek from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va., and a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Pontiac Woman's Club, Livingston County Historical Society and the Association of Presbyterian Women, and was president of the Presbyterian women's group in 1959 and 1960. She was an associate member of the 20th Century Literary Society.

Yost House

The Yost home is now a museum. It is owned by the City of Pontiac and managed by the Livingston County Historical Society.

CHAPTER 4

Update on Livingston County Historical Society in 2018

The Livingston County Historical Society remains active. Periodic meetings are held with historical themed guest speakers.

One room of the renovated Livingston County Courthouse is used to display Livingston county historical artifacts.

The Society manages three historic Pontiac homes. The Jones House, the Yost House, and the Strevell House. After many years of renovation, the Strevell House is expected to have a Grand Opening in 2018.

Please contact the Livingston County Historical Society if you are interested in joining the Society.

References

All references used in this story were identified at the point they were used in the story.

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Recommended Reading

For Fairbury history, Stuffed Clubs and Antimacassars by Alma Lewis James. Also see other Fairbury History books written by the author.

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Web Sites

None

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Dale C. Maley

Author Spotlight

Dale C. Maley is the author of the book ***Index Mutual Funds: How to Simplify Your Financial Life and Beat the Pros***. He was also a contributing author to Chapter 18 in the 2009 book ***The Bogleheads Guide to Retirement Planning***. Dale is a very successful private investor who has been a student of Financial Planning and Investing for over 33 years.

He was trained as an engineer at the University of Illinois and has been a practicing engineer for 36 years. His accomplishments as an engineer include the granting of 16 U.S. Patents and authorship of over 535 professional technical papers. He is also a member of the International Society of Automotive Engineers and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Dale earned an MBA (Masters Degree in Business Administration) degree from Illinois State University. Dale became a Registered Financial Advisor in the State of Illinois in 2006. He works part-time as a fee-only financial planner. He is President of Maley Financial Planning.

One of Dale's hobbies is history, including the history of Fairbury, Illinois. He has many lectures to local Fairbury community groups about the history of Fairbury. Both Dale and his wife are 5th generation citizens of Fairbury.

* * * * *

Also by Dale C. Maley

Fairbury History Books
History of Murders Committed in Fairbury, Illinois
Fairbury, Illinois Book Authors
Fairbury, Illinois in 1888
Fairbury, Illinois and the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition
Fairbury, Illinois History Stories
Coal Mining in Fairbury, Illinois

Investing Books
Index Mutual Funds: How to Simplify Your Financial Life and Beat the Pro's
How Asset Allocation Can Help You Achieve Your Financial Goals
Frequently Asked Questions & Answers about ETF's and Index Funds
Why We Don't Save Enough for Retirement and How You Can Save More
Are You Using the Right Rules to Plan Your Retirement?
How to Use Psychology to Achieve Your Financial Goals
Should Immediate Annuities Be a Tool in Your Retirement Planning Toolbox?
Who Wins the Variable Annuity Versus Mutual Fund Battle?
Will Your Children or Uncle Sam Inherit Your Estate?
What Are the Requirements for Becoming a Financial Planner?

Sell My Stocks Before the Baby Boomers Crash the Market?
How Do I Determine If I Have Saved Enough to Retire?
Don't Max Out My 401K?
Will Reverse Mortgages Be the Salvation of Baby Boomer Retirees?
Do I Need Ten, Twenty, or Thirty Times My Income to Retire?
How to Find a Good Financial Planner
Total Market or Slice-n-Dice for My Investment Portfolio?
What Safety Factor Are You Using for Your Retirement Plan?
How Much Income Do I Really Need in Retirement?
What Lessons Can We Learn from the Crash of 2008?
How to Invest for Retirement after the Crash of 2008
Rules-of-thumb or Retirement Planning Software?
Is Portfolio Rebalancing Worth It?
Do I Need Umbrella Insurance?
Got My First Job and How Do I Handle the 401K?
Are Black Swans Really Harmful to Ordinary Investors?
Should My Asset Allocation Include My Pension and Social Security?
Should I Pay Off My Mortgage Early?
How Does My Asset Allocation Compare to Everyone Else?
How Do I Maximize Retirement Income From My Portfolio?
Is Saving 10% of My Gross Income Good Enough?
Contribute to My Bad 401K or Go Taxable?
Do I Need an Investment Policy Statement?
Do I Need Long-Term Care Insurance?
Do I Need Long-Term Disability Insurance?
How to Read Your Way to Financial Wealth
How Do I Select the Correct Risk Level for My Portfolio?
How Do I Estimate Retirement Living Expenses?

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